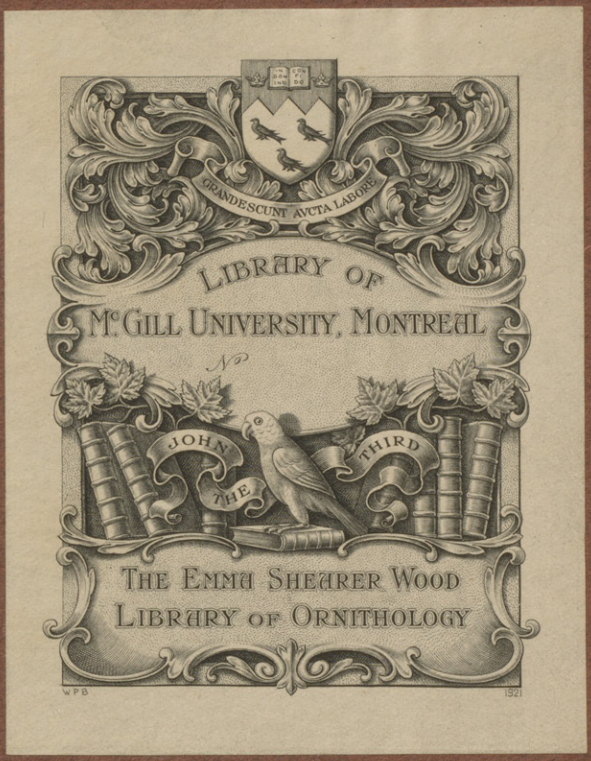
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HISTORY

OF

BRITISH BIRDS.

THE FIGURES ENGRAVED ON WOOD BY T. BEWICK.

VOL. II.

CONTAINING THE

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF WATER BIRDS.



NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED BY EDWARD WALKER, FOR T. BEWICK: SOLD BY HIM, AND LONGMAN AND REES, LONDON.

1804.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Editor of the second Volume of BRITISH BIRDS *having now brought his work to a conclusion, hastens to acknowledge his obligations to the Public for the favourable reception of his former labours; and to express his thanks to those sportsmen and lovers of Natural History, who have so liberally contributed to the completion of this work. When the History of British Birds was first undertaken, the splendid Museum of the late Marmaduke Tunstall, of Wycliffe, Esq. was obligingly thrown open by his nephew, Francis Sheldon, Esq.* with the kindest offer of the use of its abundant stores. During a residence of nearly two months at that little earthly paradise —the secure asylum of its feathered visitors, which were suffered by the late benevolent owner to pick up their daily pittance unmolested— drawings were taken from the stuffed specimens of most of the British species, and many of these were afterwards traced and engraven upon the blocks of wood; but in the progress of the work, so many both dead and living specimens of the birds themselves, (to which stuffed subjects commonly bear only an imperfect resemblance) were furnished by the Patrons of the work, that the necessity of using several of these drawings was superseded by this more near approach to perfect nature. In addition to these resources, the voluminous folios of the celebrated Count de Buffon, containing one thousand and one (Planches Enluminées) coloured prints of Birds, &c. were kindly lent to aid the work, by Michael Bryan, of London, Esq.; these, like an index, were*

* *Now Francis Constable, Esq. of Burton Constable, in Holderness.*

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constantly at hand to be referred to, and compared with the birds themselves, which were from time to time presented to the editors of both volumes, and were often of great service, by enabling them to ascertain the names, and to identify each species, in an examination of the subjects before them, when compared with the figures and doubtful nomenclature of other ornithologists.

Notwithstanding these helps, the figures of several birds are still wanting; but, however the editor regrets the deficiency, he is well aware that it is to be attributed to the difficulties the sportsman meets with in coming at many of the shy inhabitants of the ocean, and of the pathless misty marsh. The time spent in endeavouring to procure these desiderata, and other unforeseen obstacles, have checked the progress of this work, and must apologize for the delay of its appearance to so lengthened a period after the History of the Land Birds. Immediately after the publication of that volume, a separation of interests took place between the editors, and the compilation and completion of the present work devolved upon one alone. To those who have patronized the History of Quadrupeds, and British Land Birds, this apology is due: and of the public, to whose tribunal his work is now submitted, the editor begs it may be remembered, that his best endeavours have been exerted in this continuation of the effort to render a delightful portion of Natural History more interesting and more generally known; and if they, in any degree, accomplish this object, his labours will not have been bestowed in vain.*

THOMAS BEWICK.

Newcastle upon Tyne,
July 3, 1804.

* *To the Rev. H. Cotes, vicar of Bedlington, the editor acknowledges his obligations for his literary corrections.*





INTRODUCTION

TO THE

HISTORY OF BRITISH WATER BIRDS.

IN the preceding volume of Britiſh Land Birds, the characters of that part of the firſt great diviſion of the feathered tribes, the beautiful tenants of the air, the woods, and the fields, have been deſcribed, and their figures faithfully delineated. Amongſt theſe were enumerated not only the carnivorous and rapacious kinds, which, by the accuracy of their ſcent, diſcover putrid bodies at a vaſt diſtance, and thoſe which, endowed with piercing ſight, ſoar aloft in ſearch of their living prey, and dart upon it from an immeaſurable height, with the rapidity of an arrow; but alſo the various other kinds of land birds, which, although leſs noticed, are eminently uſeful to man, by clearing the earth and the atmoſphere of myriads of inſects, in every ſtage of their progreſſive growth, from the inviſible egg to the period when they are enabled to flutter on the wing. Theſe, together with the other branches of this great family, whoſe lives may be ſaid

to be ſpent more innocently than thoſe of the rapacious kinds, all contribute their ſervices to man, by clearing the earth of the ſeeds of noxious plants, as well as the trees of innumerable deſtructive inſects, with which they feed their young, and claim for themſelves, meanwhile, but a ſmall return of the produce of the fields and gardens, which too often is ungratefully begrudged them.

Nearly the whole of this amuſing group appear to relieve each other, and are, in ſucceſſion, the conſtant neighbours, or attendants on the habitations of men. They are the ſubtenants of the cultivated world, and moſt of them, eſpecially thoſe that are granivorous, may well be termed wild poultry, and are the valued property of the ſportſman. Some of theſe alſo, uniting with others of the ſoft-billed tribe, form the huſbandman's cheerful band of choriſters, whoſe comings and goings proclaim the ſeaſons; while, by their notes poured forth from every tree, and vale, and woody glen, they enliven the face of nature. But having deſcribed this diviſion of birds in the former volume, we muſt now bid them adieu, with this teſtimony of their uſefulneſs—that they are the induſtrious, regulating little meſſengers of Providence, without whoſe aſſiſtance the plough and the ſpade would often find their labours beſtowed in vain; and, weak as theſe inſtruments may appear, without their aid, inſtead of a land of overflowing plenty, adorned with flowers and fruits, and trees and woods, in rich luxuriance, and in all their varied beauty, where every grove is made vocal with reſponſive praiſes, we ſhould too frequently meet with nothing but the barrenneſs, and the ſilence, and the drearineſs of a deſert.

Leaving thoſe denizens * of nature to enjoy their own native woods, the ſheltering coppice, or extended plain, the taſk now aſſigned us is to delineate the figures, and to deſcribe the

* "Behold the fowls of the air, for they ſow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly father feedeth them."—See *Matt.* vi. 26.

characters of the other two diviſions of this numerous family—the *waders* and the *ſwimmers*: theſe are generally found far removed from the cultivated world. In exploring the track which leads us, ſtep by ſtep, to an acquaintance with them, we muſt travel through reeds and ruſhes, with doubtful feet, over the moſs-covered faithleſs quagmire, amidſt oozing rills, and ſtagnant pools. The former diviſion of theſe inhabitants of the marſh are called *waders*. All the genera, and the different ſpecies of this diviſion have divided toes: they are apparently fitted for living on land, but are furniſhed with propenſities and appetites which direct them chiefly to ſeek their food in moiſt and watery places, or on the margins of lakes and rivers, and yet they avoid thoſe depths, where it might ſeem to be found in the greateſt abundance. Moſt of them have long bills, formed to perforate the ſoft mud and moiſt earth, and long legs, bare above the knees, whereby they are enabled to wade through ſhallow waters in ſearch of food, without wetting their plumage. Others have ſhorter legs, feathered down to the knees, and bills of varied length: whence it may appear that theſe are more limited in their powers, and pick up only ſuch inſects or graſſes, ſeeds or roots of aquatic plants, as are to be met with near the ſurface of the ground, or in ſhallow pools; whilſt others again are known to plunge into the water, and by partial ſwimmings to extricate themſelves from it, after they have ſeized their prey, whether fiſhes or inſects. Some of this claſs, in the warmer and temperate climates, breed and rear their young in the fens, where they remain throughout the year: others again, but theſe are few, after the buſineſs of incubation is over, diſappear, and are ſuppoſed to direct their flight northward; while others, and theſe by much the greater number, are known invariably to leave the north, and to migrate ſouthward on the approach of the winter months, and to return northward in the ſpring. It muſt be obſerved that the ſwamps, and inland waters of temperate climes, are alſo ſtocked with a numerous ſet of inhabitants

of the ſecond claſs—the *ſwimmers*. Some of theſe, likewiſe, after having reared their young, migrate much in the ſame way as the *waders*.

The ornithologiſt, who does not content himſelf with bare names and appearance, in examining the economy of the various kinds of birds, and the ſtructure of their ſeveral parts, will find ample room for the exerciſe of his labours in the moſt minute inveſtigation; and although he can ſcarcely overlook the ſlow, and almoſt imperceptible degrees, by which nature has removed one claſs of beings from another, yet in his attempts to trace the relationſhip, or affinity, which one bears to another, he will, with his utmoſt care, find himſelf at a loſs to aſcertain that preciſe link in the chain, where the doubtful croſſing line is drawn, and by which the various genera and ſpecies are to be ſeparated. But, however, after he ſhall have examined a few gradations, upwards or downwards, he will more readily diſcover the modes of life which the ſeveral kinds are deſtined to purſue; and their ability to perform the various evolutions neceſſary for the procuring of their food in that exactitude to which the Author of nature hath formed them. In ſome of thoſe which run on the ſurface of the ſoft mud, and can occaſionally take the water, the indications of their ability for ſwimming are furniſhed very ſparingly: theſe indications firſt appear in the breadth of the underſides of the toes, with the two outer toes joined by a ſmall web. The ſcalloped membranes attached to the ſides of the toes form the next advance: ſome are webbed to the nails, with deep indentations in the middle, between each toe; others have only three toes, all placed forwards, and fully united by webbed membranes: ſome have the addition of back toes, either plain, or with webbed appendages to each; and others again have the four toes fully webbed together. The thighs, in the moſt expert divers, are placed very far back; their legs are almoſt as flat and thin as a knife; and they are enabled to fold up their toes ſo cloſely, that the leaſt poſſible reſiſtance is

made while they are drawing them forwards to repeat their ſtrokes in the water. Many of theſe divers are provided internally with a receptacle, ſeated about the windpipe, for a ſtock of air, which ſerves the purpoſe of reſpiration, whilſt they remain under water: and the whole of the tribe of ſwimmers have their feathers bedded upon a ſoft, cloſe, warm down; and are furniſhed with a natural oil, ſupplied from a gland in the rump. This oil they preſs out with their bills from a kind of nipple, and with it preen and dreſs their plumage, which is thereby rendered impenetrable to the water, and, in a great degree, to the moſt extreme cold.

Of the number of theſe birds, both waders and ſwimmers, a great proportion may not improperly be termed freſh-water birds, as they rear their young, and ſpend the greater part of their time inland. In this claſs are the *Ardea*, *Scolopax*, and *Tringa*, with divided toes,—the *Fulica*, *Phalaropus*, and *Podiceps*, with finned feet; together with others of the web-footed kinds, chiefly of the genera of the *Mergus* and *Anas*. Among theſe various kinds, ſome ſpecies are found, which only occaſionally viſit the ſea-ſhores: others have not been noticed there at all; while others are ſeen there frequently, feeding on the beach: ſome, like little boats, keep within bays and creeks, near the ſhore; others, meanwhile, adventure into the ocean, and ſport amidſt its waves. To particularize theſe, with their various places of abode, and the times of their migrations, would here be tedious and unneceſſary: they are noticed in the deſcription of each bird.

The northern extremities of the earth ſeem as if they were ſet apart for the nations of the feathered race, as their peculiar heritage—a poſſeſſion which they have held coeval with creation. There, amidſt lakes and endleſs ſwamps, where the human foot never trod, and where, excepting their own cries, nothing is heard but the winds, they find an aſylum where they can rear their young in ſafety, unmoleſted, and ſurrounded by a profu-

part of them hatch and rear their young on the rocky promontories and inlets of the ſea, and on the innumerable little iſles with which the extenſive coaſt of Norway is ſtudded, from its ſouthern extremity—the Lindeſneſs, or Naze, to the North Cape, that oppoſes itſelf to the Frozen Ocean. The Hebrides, or Weſtern Scottiſh Iſles, are alſo well known to be a principal rendezvous to ſea-fowl, and celebrated as ſuch by Thomſon:

" Or where the northern ocean, in vast whirls,
" Boils round the naked melancholy isles
" Of farthest *Thule;* and the Atlantic surge
" Pours in among the stormy *Hebrides;*
" Who can recount what transmigrations there
" Are annual made? what nations come and go?
" And how the living clouds on clouds arise?
" Infinite wings! till all the plume-dark air,
" And rude resounding shore are one wild cry."

Other parts of the world—the bleak ſhores and iſles of Lapland, Siberia, Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, Iceland, Greenland, &c. with the vaſt ſweep of the Arctic Zone, are alſo enlivened in their ſeaſons by ſwarms of ſea-fowl, which range the intervening open parts of the ſeas to the ſhoreleſs frozen ocean. There a barrier is put to further enquiry, beyond which the prying eye of man muſt not look, and there his imagination only muſt take the view, to ſupply the place of reality. In theſe forlorn regions of *unknowable* dreary ſpace, this reſervoir of froſt and ſnow, where firm fields of ice, the accumulations of centuries of winters, glazed in Alpine heights above heights, ſurround the pole, and concentre the multiplied rigours of extreme cold; even here, ſo far as human intelligence has been able to penetrate, there appears to ſubſiſt an abundance of animals in the air, and in the waters: and, perhaps, it may not be carrying conjecture too far, to ſuppoſe, that every region of the earth, air, and water, however ungenial the clime may appear to us, is replete with animals, ſuited, each kind, to the place aſſigned to it.

Certain it is, however, that the deeps of the frozen zone are the great receptacle whence the finny tribes iſſue, in ſo wonderful a profuſion, to reſtock all the watery world of the northern hemiſphere; and that this immenſe icy protuberance of the globe, this gathering together, this hoard of congealed waters, is periodically diminiſhed by the influence of the unſetting ſummer's ſun, whoſe rays being perpetually, though obliquely, ſhed, during that ſeaſon, on the widely extended rim of the frozen continent, gradually diſſolve its margin, which is thus crumbled into innumerable floating iſles, that are driven ſouthward to repleniſh the ſeas of warmer climes. *

Amidſt theſe drifts of ice, and following this widely ſpreading current, teeming with life, the whole hoſt of ſea-fowl find in the waters an inexhauſtible ſupply of food: for the great movement, the immenſe ſouthward migration of fiſhes is then begun, and ſhoal after ſhoal, probably as the removal of their dark icy canopy unveils them to the ſun, are invited forth, and, guided by its light and heat, poured forward in thouſands of myriads, in multitudes which ſet all calculation at defiance. The flocks of ſea birds, for their numbers, baffle the power of figures; † but the ſwarms of fiſhes, as if engendered in the clouds, and ſhowered down like the rain, are multiplied in an incomprehenſible degree; they may indeed be called infinite, if infinity were applicable to any thing created. Of all theſe various tribes of fiſhes, thus preſſing forward on their ſouthern route, that of the Herring is the moſt numerous. Cloſely embodied in reſplendent columns of many miles in length and breadth, and in depth from the ſurface to the bottom of the ſea, the ſhoals of this tribe peacefully glide along, and glittering like a huge reflected rainbow,

* The same happens in the southern hemisphere by the melting of the ice at the south pole.

† A bird may lay ten eggs and hatch them; but the roe of a herring is said to contain ten thousand.

or Aurora Borealis, attract the eyes of all their attendant foes. Other kind of fishes, in duller garbs, keep also together in bodies, but change their movements as may best suit their different modes of attack or defence, in preying upon, or escaping from each other as they pass along. * All these various tribes of fishes, but particularly that of the Herring, are in their turns encountered and preyed upon by the whole hosts of sea-fowl, which continually watch all their motions. Some are seen to hover over the shoals of fishes, and to wheel about in quick and glancing evolutions, and then to dart down like a falling plummet upon the selected object, which is gliding near the surface of the water, and instantly to rise, and devour the living victim on the wing. Others, equally alert and rapid in their pursuit, plunge and dive after their prey to greater depths; while the less active birds seem content to devour only such of the fishes as have been killed or wounded, and cast out on the flanks, or left in the rear of the main body.

In this great, this wonderful emigration of birds and fishes, it is evident that they are amply provided on their way with an abundance of food, which they derive from each other; and that the shoals of fishes which the sea-fowl attend, are impelled south-

* "Fishes are the most voracious animals in nature. Many species prey indiscriminately on every thing digestible that comes in their way, and devour not only other species of fishes, but even their own. As a counterbalance to this voracity they are amazingly prolific. Some bring forth their young alive; others produce eggs. The viviparous *Blenny* brings forth 200 or 300 live fishes at a time. Those which produce eggs are all much more prolific, and seem to proportion their stock to the danger of consumption. Levenhock affirms that the Cod spawns above nine millions in a season. The Flounder produces above one million, and the Mackarel above 500,000. Scarcely one in a hundred of these eggs, however, is supposed to come to maturity: but two wise purposes are answered by this amazing increase; it preserves the species in the midst of numberless enemies, and serves to furnish the rest with a sustenance adapted to their nature."—*Encycl. Britan.*

ward by inſtinct, aided by currents, for the accompliſhment of their miſſion. The birds, alſo, in their progreſs to fulfil the ſame high purpoſe, are by theſe enticed forwards, as it were, to follow the ſeaſons, and to wing their way to the poſts aſſigned them in climes adapted to the fulfilling of the great duties of rearing their young, and of leading them forth to purſue the unalterable courſe of nature: and thus they ſpend out the varied year in the ſame ceaſeleſs traverſings on the globe.

Notwithſtanding the prodigious multitudes of the inhabitants of the ocean, which are thus deſtroyed by each other, and by their winged enemies, yet, like a ſmall toll, or like a meaſure of ſand taken from the beach, there is no viſible diminution of them; for although many diviſions of the larger kinds, by keeping in the mid-ſea deeps, eſcape notice, and are diſperſed like the fowl that follow to feed on them; yet others are mixed with the ſmaller ſorts, and form part of thoſe vaſt ſhoals which yearly preſent themſelves to man, filling every creek and inlet of the northern ſhores, particularly thoſe of the Britiſh iſles; where this wonderful influx appears as if offered to give employment to thouſands, and to ſupply an inexhauſtible ſource of commerce: but this, like other overflowing bounties of Providence, ſeems to be too little regarded: the waſte, indeed, in this inſtance, is ſufficient to feed half the human race.

It is a melancholy reflection, that, from man, downwards, to the ſmalleſt living creature, all are found to prey upon and devour each other. The philoſophic mind, however, ſees this waſte of animal life again and again repaired by freſh ſtores, ever ready to ſupply the void, and the great work of generation and deſtruction perpetually going on, and to this diſpenſation of an all-wiſe Providence, ſo intereſting to humanity, bows in awful ſilence.

In returning from theſe digreſſions to the ſubject of the preſent enquiry, let the imagination picture to itſelf countleſs multitudes of birds, wafted, like the clouds, around the globe,

which in ceaſeleſs revolutions turns its convexties to and from the ſun, cauſing thereby a perpetual ſucceſſion of day and night, ſummer and winter, and theſe migrators will be ſeen to follow its courſe, and to traverſe both hemiſpheres from pole to pole. To thoſe, who, contemplating this world of wonders, extend their views beyond the common gropings of mankind, it will appear, that Nature, ever provident that no part of her empire ſhould be unoccupied, has peopled it with creatures of various kinds, and filled every corner of it with animation. To follow her into all her receſſes would be an endleſs taſk; but ſo far as theſe have been explored, every ſtep is marked with pleaſantneſs: and while the reflecting mind, habituated to move in its proper ſphere, breaks through the trammels of pride, and removes the film of ignorance, it ſoars with clearer views towards perfection, and adores that Infinite Wiſdom which appointed and governs the unerring courſe of all things.

..... "Thus the men
"Whom Nature's works can charm, with God himself
"Hold converse; grow familiar day by day
"With his conceptions; act upon his plan,
"And form to his the relish of their ſouls."

Akenside's Pleaſures of Imagination, Book 3, *l.* 630.





CONTENTS OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

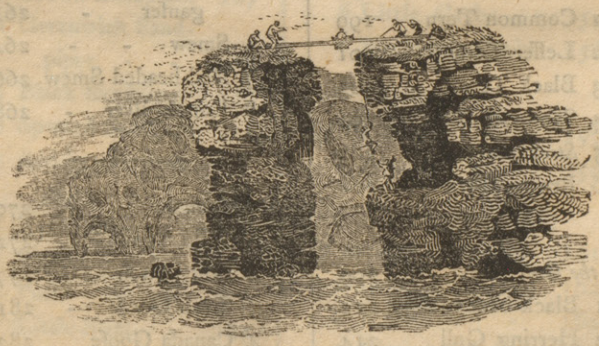
	Page.
1 Sanderling -	1
2 Long-legged Plover	4
Of the Oyſter-catcher -	6
1 Oyſter-catcher -	7
1 Water Crake -	10
2 Water Rail -	13
1 Water Ouzel -	16
1 Kingfiſher - -	19
Of the Spoonbill -	24
1 Spoonbill - -	25
Of the Crane - -	28
1 Crane - -	29
2 Stork - -	32
Of the Heron - -	36
1 Heron - -	37
2 Great White Heron	42
3 Night Heron	43
4 Egret - -	45
5 Bittern - -	47
6 Little Bittern -	51
Of the Curlew -	53
1 Curlew - -	54
2 Whimbrel -	57
Of the Snipe - -	59
1 Woodcock -	60
2 Great Snipe -	67
3 Common Snipe	68
4 Judcock - -	73

	Page.
5 Knot - -	75
Of the Godwit - -	77
1 Godwit - -	78
2 Red Godwit -	80
3 Cinereous Godwit	83
4 Cambridge Godwit	84
5 Leſſer Godwit	85
6 Greenſhank -	86
7 Spotted Redſhank	88
8 Redſhank -	91
Of the Sandpiper -	94
1 Ruff - -	95
2 Shore Sandpiper	99
3 Green Sandpiper	100
4 Gambet -	102
5 Aſh-coloured Sandpiper -	103
6 Common Sandpiper	104
7 Brown Sandpiper	107
8 Greenwich Sandpiper - -	108
9 Black Sandpiper	110
10 Spotted Sandpiper	111
11 Red-legged Sandpiper -	113
12 Red Sandpiper	116
13 Dunlin - -	117
14 Purre - -	119
15 Little Stint -	122
1 Turnſtone -	124
2 Turnſtone (*morinella*) -	126
1 Water Hen	128
Of the Coot -	132
1 Coot - -	133
2 Greater Coot -	137
Of the Phalarope -	138
1 Red Phalarope	139
2 Grey Phalarope	140
Of the Grebe - -	142
1 Great-creſted Grebe	145
2 Tippet Grebe -	147
3 Eared Grebe -	149
4 Duſky Grebe	150
5 Red-necked Grebe	152
6 Little Grebe	154
7 Black-chin Grebe	156
Of the Avoſet - -	157
1 Avoſet - -	158
Of the Auk or Penguin	161
1 Great Auk -	162
2 Razor-bill -	164
3 Black-billed Auk	167
4 Puffin - -	168
5 Little Auk -	172

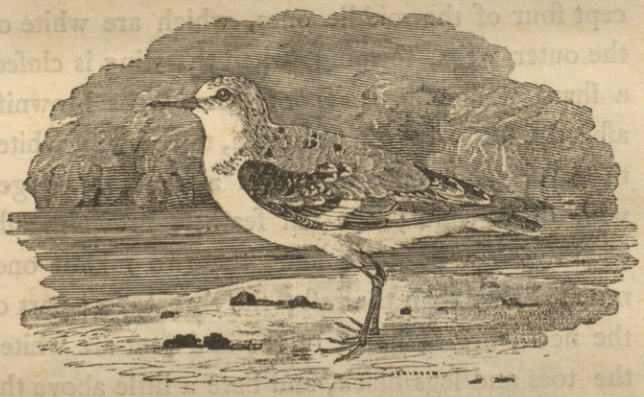
	Page.
Of the Guillemot -	174
1 Guillemot -	175
2 Leſſer Guillemot	177
3 Black Guillemot	179
4 Spotted Guillemot	181
Of the Divers -	182
1 Great Northern Diver -	183
2 Imber - -	185
3 Leſſer Imber	187
4 Firſt Speckled Diver -	189
5 Second Speckled Diver -	191
6 Red-throated Diver	193
7 Black-throated Diver - -	195
Of the Tern or Sea Swallow - -	197
1 Common Tern	199
2 Leſſer Tern -	201
3 Black Tern -	203
4 Sandwich Tern	204
5 *Sterna nævia* -	207
6 Brown Tern	208
Of the Gull - -	209
1 Black-backed Gull	212
2 Herring Gull	214
3 Wagel -	216
4 Common Gull	218
5 Winter Gull -	221
6 Black-headed Gull	222
7 Brown-headed Gull	226
8 *La Grande mouette blanche* -	228
9 Kittiwake -	229
10 Tarrock - -	231
11 Skua Gull -	233
12 Black-toed Gull	236
13 Arctic Gull -	239
Of the Petrel - -	241
1 Fulmar - -	243
2 Shearwater -	246
3 Stormy Petrel	249
Of the Mergus -	252
1 Gooſander -	254
2 Dun-diver -	257
3 Red-breaſted Merganſer -	261
4 Smew - -	264
5 Red-headed Smew	266
6 Lough-diver -	268
Of the Anas - -	270
1 Wild Swan -	272
2 Mute Swan -	277
3 Swan Gooſe -	281
4 Canada Gooſe	283
5 Egyptian Gooſe	287
6 Red-breaſted Gooſe	289

		Page.
7	Grey Lag Goose	292
8	Tame Goose -	297
9	White fronted Wild Goose	305
10	Bean Goose	306
11	Bernacle -	307
12	Brent Goose -	311
13	Eider Duck -	314
14	Musk Duck -	320
15	Velvet Duck -	322
16	Scoter - -	324
17	Mallard - -	327
18	Tame Duck -	333
19	Hook-billed Duck	338
20	Scaup Duck -	339
21	Shieldrake -	341
22	Shoveler - -	345
23	Red-breasted Shoveler - -	349
24	Gadwall - -	350
25	Wigeon - -	352
26	Bimaculated Duck	355
27	Pochard - -	356
28	Ferruginous Duck	359
29	Pintail Duck	360
30	Long-tailed Duck	363
31	Golden-eye -	367
32	Morillon -	371
33	Tufted Duck	372
34	Garganey - -	374
35	Teal - -	376

Of the Pelican -		379
1	Corvorant -	381
2	Crested Corvorant	388
3	Shag - -	390
4	Gannet - -	393



BRITISH BIRDS.



SANDERLING.

TOWILLEE, OR CURWILLET.

(*Charadrius Calidris*, Lin.—*Maubeche*, Buff.)

THIS bird weighs almoſt two ounces; is about eight inches in length, and fifteen in breadth, from tip to tip. The bill is an inch long, ſlender, black and grooved on the ſides nearly from the tip to the noſtril; the brow to the eyes white; the reſt of the head pale aſh-colour, mottled in brown ſtreaks from the forehead to the hinder part of the

neck, and on each ſide of the upper part of the breaſt; back, ſcapulars, and greater coverts, browniſh aſh, edged with dull white, and irregularly marked with dark brown ſpots. The pinions, leſſer coverts, and baſtard-wings, dark brown; the quills, which extend beyond the tail, are of the ſame colour on their exterior webs and points, except four of the middle ones, which are white on the outer webs, forming, when the wing is cloſed, a ſharp wedge-ſhaped ſpot; inner webs browniſh aſh; the ſecondary quills brown, tipped with white; the rump and tail coverts are alſo brown, edged with dirty white; the tail feathers browniſh aſh, edged with a lighter colour, the two middle ones much darker than the reſt; the throat, fore part of the neck, breaſt, belly, thighs and vent are white; the toes and legs black, and bare a little above the knees. This bird is of a ſlender form, and its plumage has a hoary appearance among the Stints, with which it aſſociates on the ſea-ſhore, in various parts of Great-Britain. It wants the hinder toe, and has, in other reſpects, the look of the Plover and Dotterel, to which family it belongs.

Latham ſays, this bird, like the Purre, and ſome others, varies conſiderably, either from age or the ſeaſon; for thoſe he received in Auguſt, had the upper parts dark aſh-coloured, and the feathers deeply edged with a ferruginous colour; but others ſent to him in January were of a plain dove-co-

loured grey; they differed alſo in ſome other trifling particulars.*

* The ſpecimen from which this drawing and deſcription were taken, was furniſhed by the Rev. H. Cotes, of Bedlington; and it is the only one which the author has had an opportunity of examining.





LONG-LEGGED PLOVER.

LONG-SHANKS, OR LONG-LEG.

(*Charadrius himantopus*, Lin.—*L'Echaſſe*, Buff.)

Its ſlender black bill is two inches and a half long, from the tip of which to the end of the tail, it meaſures only about thirteen inches; but to the toes, a foot and a half. The wings are long, meaſuring, from tip to tip, twenty-nine inches; irides red; the crown of the head, back and wings, of a gloſſy black; tail light grey, except the two outſide feathers which are white; as are all the other parts of its plumage, except a few duſky ſpots on the back of the neck. Its long, weak and diſproportionate legs are of a blood red, and meaſure, from the foot to the upper naked part of the thigh, about eight inches; the toes are ſhort, and the outer and middle ones are connected by a membrane at the baſe.

Ornithologiſts mention only a few inſtances of this ſingularly-looking ſpecies having been met with in Great-Britain ;* but it is common in other countries.

Latham† ſays, " it is common in Egypt, being found there in the marſhes in October ; its food is ſaid to conſiſt principally of flies. It is likewiſe plentiful about the Salt Lakes, and often ſeen on the ſhores of the Caſpian Sea, as well as by the rivers which empty themſelves into it ; and in the ſouthern deſerts of Independent Tartary : We have alſo ſeen it in Chineſe paintings ; and it is known at Madras, in the Eaſt Indies." It is alſo often met with in the warmer parts of America ; is ſometimes ſeen as far north as Connecticut, and alſo in Jamaica.

* Sir Robert Sibbald makes mention of two that were ſhot in Scotland—Pennant of one that was ſhot near Oxford—and of five others which were ſhot in Frincham pond in Surrey.

† Pliny ſays it is a native of Egypt.

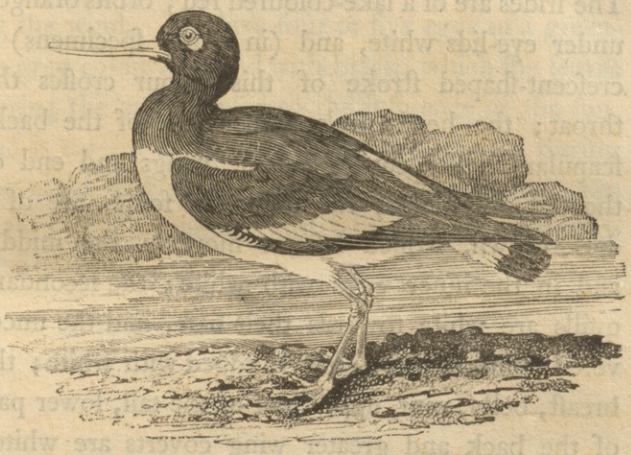


OF THE OYSTER-CATCHER.

Its bill is long, compreſſed and cuneated at the end; noſtrils linear; tongue ſcarcely a third of the length of the bill; toes, three in number, all placed forwards, the exteriors united to the middle by a ſtrong membrane, as far as the firſt joint.

This ſeparate and ſingle genus of birds, though no where numerous, is widely diſperſed over the globe, being met with in every country which travellers have viſited.





OYSTER-CATCHER.

PIED OYSTER-CATCHER, SEA-PIE, OR OLIVE.

(*Hæmatopus oſtralegus*, Lin.—*L'Hutrier*, Buff.)

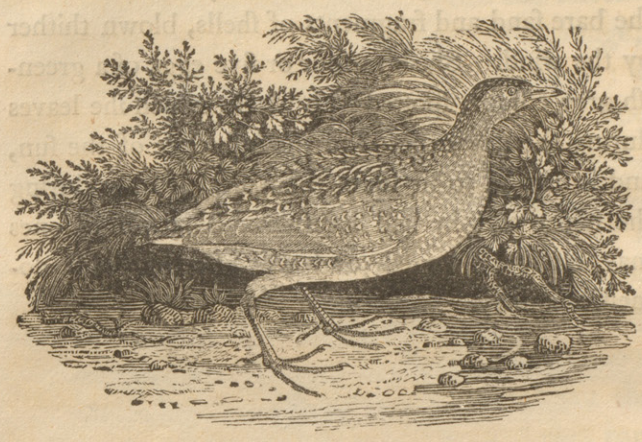
The Oyſter-catcher generally weighs about ſixteen ounces, meaſures ſeventeen inches in length, and is two feet eight inches in breadth. The bill is of a bright ſcarlet, about three inches long, wide at the noſtrils, and grooved beyond them nearly half its length; thence to the tip it is vertically compreſſed on the ſides, and ends obtuſely: with this inſtrument, which, in its ſhape and ſtructure, is peculiar to this bird, it eaſily diſengages the limpets from the rocks, and plucks out the oyſters from their half-opened ſhells: on theſe it feeds, as well

as on other kinds of ſhell-fiſh, ſea-worms and inſects. The irides are of a lake-coloured red; orbits orange; under eye-lids white, and (in many ſpecimens) a creſcent-ſhaped ſtroke of this colour croſſes the throat; the head, neck, upper part of the back, ſcapulars, leſſer coverts of the wings and end of the tail are black; the quills, in ſome, are of a dark brown, ſtriped leſs or more in the middle and in the inner webs with white; the ſecondary quills are white towards their baſe, and the uncovered points black, narrowly edged with white; the breaſt, belly, vent, upper half of the tail, lower part of the back and greater wing coverts are white; the legs and feet are of a pale red, ſhort and ſtrong; the toes, three in number, are each ſurrounded with a membraneous edge, and covered with a hard, ſcaly ſkin, which enables the bird to climb and traverſe the rough and ſharp ſhell-covered rocks, in queſt of prey, without injury.

Although the Oyſter-catcher is not provided with powers fitted for an expert ſwimmer, yet it does not ſhew any averſion to taking the water, upon which it may be ſaid to float rather than ſwim. Theſe birds are the conſtant inhabitants of the ſea-ſhores, and are ſeldom found inland. In winter, they aſſemble in flocks, are then ſhy and wild; and are ſeen in pairs, only in the breeding-ſeaſon and in the ſummer. The female depoſits her eggs in an open and dry ſituation, out of tide mark, ſheltered merely

by a tuft of bent grafs, without any other neft than the bare fand and fragments of fhells, blown thither by the wind. She lays four or five eggs of a greenifh grey colour, fpotted with black, which fhe leaves during the day expofed to the influence of the fun, and is careful to fit upon them herfelf only during the night and in bad weather. The young ones may eafily be tamed, and will affociate with domeftic poultry.





WATER CRAKE.

SPOTTED RAIL, LESSER SPOTTED WATER RAIL, SKITTY, OR SPOTTED GALLINULE.

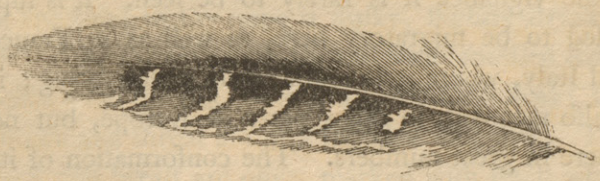
(*Rallus Porzana*, Lin.—*La Marouette*, Buff.)

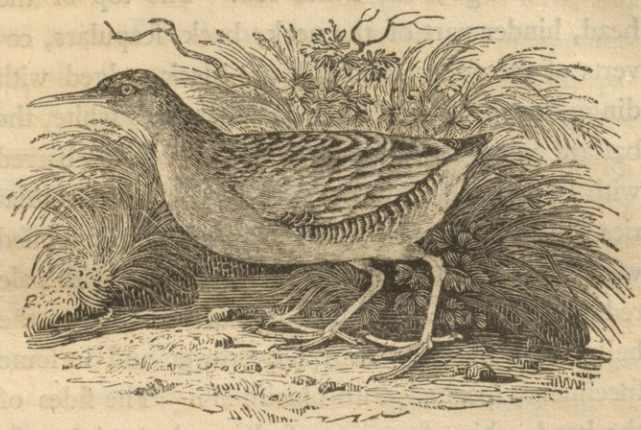
THIS bird weighs above four ounces, and meaſures nearly nine inches in length, and about fifteen in breadth. The bill is of a greeniſh yellow, and not more than three quarters of an inch long. The top of the head to the nape is duſky, ſlightly ſtreaked with ruſty brown; a brown and white mottled ſtripe paſſes from the bill, over and behind the eyes; the cheeks and throat are of a freckled dull grey. The neck and breaſt are olive, marked with ſmall white ſpots; the ſides duſky and olive, croſſed with bars of white, and the under parts are a mixture of cinereous

dirty white and yellow. The colour of the plumage of all the upper parts is duſky and olive brown, ſpotted, edged, barred or ſtreaked with white: the ſpots on the wing coverts are ſurrounded with black, which gives them a ſtudded or pearly appearance; and the white bars and ſtreaks on the ſcapulars and tertials form a beautiful contraſt to the black ground of the feathers on theſe parts. The legs are of a yellowiſh green. The Water Crake in its figure and general appearance, though much leſs, is extremely like the Corn Crake or Land Rail; but its manners and habits are very different. Its common abode is in low, ſwampy grounds, in which are pools or ſtreamlets, overgrown with willows, reeds, and ruſhes, where it lurks and hides itſelf with great circumſpection: it is wild, ſolitary, and ſhy, and will ſwim, dive, or ſkulk under any cover; and ſometimes, it is ſaid, will ſuffer itſelf to be knocked on the head, rather than riſe before the ſportſman and his dog. The ſpecies is very ſcarce in Great Britain, and from its extreme vigilance it is rarely to be ſeen. It is ſuppoſed to be migratory here, as well as in France and Italy, where it is found early in the ſpring; it is alſo met with in other parts of Europe, but no where in great numbers. The conformation of its neſt is curious: it is made of ruſhes and other light buoyant materials, woven and matted together, ſo as to float on, and to riſe or fall with the ebbing or

ſlowing of the water, like a boat; and to prevent its being ſwept away by floods, it is moored or faſtened to the pendant ſtalk of one of the reeds,* by which it is ſkreened from the ſight, and ſhelter-ed from the weather. The female lays from ſix to eight eggs. The young brood do not long require the foſtering care of the mother, but as ſoon as they are hatched, the whole of the little black ſhapeleſs family ſcramble away from her, take to the water, ſeparate from each other, and ſhift for themſelves. The fleſh is ſaid to have a fine and delicate flavour, and is eſteemed by epicures a delicious morſel.

* Adorable is that divine wiſdom, and infinite that providential care, which inſtructs theſe birds thus to ſecure the continuance of their ſpecies, and to provide for the ſafety of their future offspring!





WATER RAIL.

BILCOCK, VELVET RUNNER, OR BROOK OUZEL.

(*Rallus aquaticus*, Lin.—*Le Rale d'Eau*, Buff.)

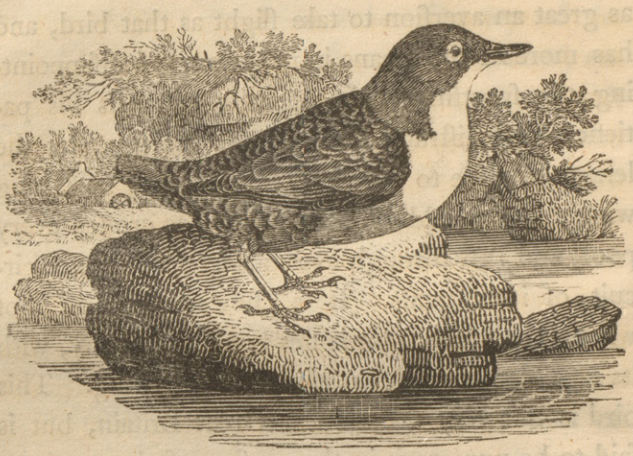
THIS bird, though a diſtinct genus of itſelf, has many traits in its character very ſimilar to both the Corn Crake and the Water Crake: it is migratory, like the former, to which it alſo bears ſome reſemblance in its ſize, in its long ſhape, and in the flatneſs of its body: its haunts and manner of living are nearly the ſame as thoſe of the latter; but it differs from both in the length of its bill, and in its plumage. It weighs about four ounces and a half, and meaſures twelve inches in length and ſixteen in breadth. The bill is ſlightly curved, and one inch and three quarters long; the upper mandible is duſky edged with red; the under

reddiſh orange; the irides red. The top of the head, hinder part of the neck, back, ſcapulars, coverts of the wings, and tail, are black, edged with dingy brown. The ridge of the wings is white, the baſtard wing barred with white, the inſide barred with brown and white, and the quills and ſecondaries duſky. The ſide feathers are beautifully croſſed with black and white, and ſlightly tipped with pale reddiſh brown. The inner ſide of the thighs, the belly, and the vent are pale brown, and in ſome ſpecimens, ſpecked with blueiſh aſh. The ſides of the head, chin, fore part of the neck, and breaſt, are of a dark hoary lead colour, ſlightly tinged with pale rufous. The tail conſiſts of twelve ſhort black feathers, edged and tipped with dirty red; ſome of thoſe on the underſide barred with black and white. The legs which are placed far behind, are a dull dirty red; the toes long and without any connecting membrane. Latham ſays "the eggs are more than an inch and a half long, of a pale yellowiſh colour, marked all over with duſky brown ſpots, nearly equal in ſize, but irregular."

The Water Rail is a ſhy and ſolitary bird. Its conſtant abode is in low wet places, much overgrown with ſedges, reeds, and other coarſe herbage, among which it finds ſhelter, and feeds in hidden ſecurity. It runs, occaſionally flirting up its tail, through its tracts with the ſame ſwiftneſs as the Corn Crake runs through the meadows and corn-fields, ſhews

as great an averſion to take flight as that bird, and has more of the means in its power of diſappointing the ſportſman. It generally exhauſts his patience, and diſtracts and miſleads his dog, by the length of time to which it can protract its taking wing; and it ſeldom riſes until it has croſſed every pool, and run through every avenue within the circuit of its retreats. It is, however, eaſily ſhot when once fluſhed, for it flies but indifferently, with its legs dangling down while on the wing. This bird is not very common in Great Britain, but is ſaid to be numerous in the marſhes of the northern countries of Europe, whence, partially and irregularly, it migrates ſouthward, even into Africa, during the ſeverity of the winter ſeaſon. Buffon ſays "they paſs Malta in the ſpring and autumn," and to confirm this, adds, "that the Viſcount de Querhoënt ſaw a flight of them at the diſtance of fifty leagues from the coaſts of Portugal on the 17th of April, ſome of which were ſo fatigued that they ſuffered themſelves to be caught by the hand." The fleſh of the Water Rail is not ſo generally eſteemed as that of the Land Rail, and yet by many it is thought rich and delicious eating.





WATER OUZEL.

WATER CROW, DIPPER, OR WATER PIOT.

(*Sturnus Cinclus*, Lin.—*Le Merle d'Eau*, Buff.)

THE length of the Water Ouzel is about ſeven inches and a half from the point of the beak to the end of its tail, which is very ſhort, and gives the bird a thick and ſtumpy appearance. The mouth is wide; the bill black, about three quarters of an inch long; the upper mandible rather hollow in the middle, and bent a little downwards at the point; the eye-lids are white, and the irides hazel. The upper parts of the head and of the neck are deepiſh ruſty brown; the back, rump, ſcapulars, wing coverts, belly, vent, and tail are black; but each feather on theſe parts is diſtinctly edged with a hoary grey colour. The breaſt, fore part of the

neck and throat, are of a ſnowy white; and the black and white on the belly and breaſt are ſeparated by a ruſty brown. The legs and toes are ſhort and ſtrong, the ſcales pale blue, the hinder part and joints brown; the claws are curved, and the toes are diſtinctly parted, without any membraneous ſubſtance between to join them.

This ſolitary ſpecies is removed from the place it has hitherto holden in all ſyſtems among the land birds: it ought not to be claſſed any longer with the Ouzels and Thruſhes, to which it bears no affinity. Its manners and habits are alſo different from thoſe birds, and are peculiar to itſelf. It is chiefly found in the high and mountainous parts of the country, and always by the ſides of brooks and rocky rivers, but particularly where they fall in caſcades, or run with great rapidity among ſtones and fragments of broken rocks; there it may be ſeen perched on the top of a ſtone in the midſt of the torrent, in a continual dipping motion, or ſhort courteſy often repeated, whilſt it is watching for its food, which conſiſts of ſmall fiſhes and inſects. The feathers of this bird, like thoſe of the Duck tribe, are impervious to water, whereby it is enabled to continue a long time in that fluid without ſuſtaining the leaſt injury. But the moſt ſingular trait in its character, (and it is well authenticated) is that of its poſſeſſing the power of walking, in queſt of its prey, on the pebbly bot-

tom of a river, in the ſame way, and with the ſame eaſe as if it were on dry land. The female makes her neſt in the banks of the rivulet, of the ſame kind of materials, and nearly of the ſame form as that of the common Wren; and lays four or five eggs, which are white, lightly bluſhed with red.





KINGFISHER.

(*Alcedo ifpida*, Linn. *Le Martin-pêcheur*, Buff.)

THIS ſplendid little bird is of rather a clumſy ſhape, the head being large in proportion to the ſize of the body, and the legs and feet very ſmall. In length it is only ſeven inches, in breadth eleven; and its weight is about two ounces and a quarter. The bill, meaſured from the corners of the mouth, is two inches long, vertically compreſſed on the ſides, ſtrong, ſtraight, and tapering to a ſharp point: the upper mandible is black, fading into a red colour towards the baſe; the under one, as well as the inſide of the mouth, is of a reddiſh orange: the irides are hazel, inclining to red. A broad ſtripe paſſes from the bill over the eye to the

hinder part of the neck, of a bright orange colour, but margined on the ſide of the mouth, and croſſed, below the eye, by a narrow black ſtroke, and it is terminated behind the auriculars with a ſlanting wedge-ſhaped white ſpot. The throat is white; the reſt of the head, and the wing coverts are of a deep ſhining green, ſpotted with bright light blue: the ſcapulars and exterior webs of the quills are of the ſame colour, but without ſpots. The middle of the back, the rump, and the coverts of the tail are of a moſt reſplendent azure: the tail, which conſiſts of twelve ſhort feathers, is of a rich deep blue, and the whole under part of the body of a bright orange. The legs and toes are of a red colour, and are peculiar in their ſhape and conformation, the three forward toes being unconnected from the claws to the firſt joints, from whence they appear as if grown into each other; and the inner and hinder ones are placed in a line on the inſide of the foot, whereby the heel is widened, and ſeems preſſed out.

It is difficult to conceive why ornithologiſts have claſſed the Kingfiſher with land birds, as its habits and manner of living are wholly confined to the waters, on the margins of which it will ſit for hours together on a projecting twig, or a ſtone; at one while fluttering its wings and expoſing its brilliant plumage to the ſun; at another, hovering in the air, like the Keſtril, it waits the moment

when it may ſeize its prey, on which it darts with almoſt unerring certainty: often it remains for ſeveral ſeconds under the water, before it has gained the object of its purſuit, then brings up the little fiſh, which it carries to the land, beats to death, and ſwallows.

The female commonly makes her neſt by the ſides of rivers or brooks, in a hole made by the mole, or the water-rat: this ſhe enlarges or contracts to ſuit her purpoſe and it is conjectured, from the difficulty of finding the neſt, that frequently the hole which leads to it is under water.

The author was favoured with a ſtuffed ſpecimen of this bird, together with its neſt and ſix eggs, by G. W. Wentworth, of Wolley-Hall, near Wakefield, eſquire. In the conpactneſs of its form, the neſt reſembled that of the Chaffinch: it was made entirely of ſmall fiſh bones, cemented together with a brown glutinous ſubſtance. The eggs were of a clear white.

To take notice of the many ſtrange and contradictory accounts of this bird, as well as of its neſt, tranſmitted to us by the antients,* and to enume-

* Their neſts are wonderful—of the figure of a ball rather elevated, with a very narrow mouth; they look like a large ſponge: they cannot be cut with a knife, but may be broken with a ſmart ſtroke: they have the appearance of petrified ſea-froth. It is not diſcovered of what they are formed; ſome think of Prickly-back bones, ſince they live upon fiſh. *Pliny.*

rate the properties aſcribed to it by the ſuperſtitious in all ages, would occupy too large a portion of this work: but the following modern inſtance ſeems worthy of notice:—

Dr Heyſham of Carliſle, in his Catalogue of Cumberland Animals, ſays, "On the 7th of May a boy from Upperby brought me a Kingfiſher alive, which he had taken when ſitting on her eggs the night before: from him I received the following information:—Having often this ſpring obſerved theſe birds frequent a bank upon the river Peteril, he watched them carefully, and ſaw them go into a ſmall hole in the bank. The hole was too ſmall to admit his hand, but as it was made of ſoft mould he eaſily enlarged it. It was upwards of half a yard long, at the end of it the eggs, which were ſix in number, were placed upon the bare mould, there being not the ſmalleſt appearance of a neſt." If the boy was correct in his relation to Dr Heyſham, it may be concluded that theſe birds ſometimes, from neceſſity perhaps, build a neſt, and ſometimes make the dry mould anſwer that purpoſe.

Ariſtotle compares the neſt to a gourd, and its ſubſtance and texture to thoſe ſea-balls or lumps of interwoven filaments which are cut with difficulty; but, when dried, become friable.

Ælian and *Plutarch* deſcribe it as being made to float on the placid face of the ocean.

Kingfiſhers are not ſo numerous as might be expected from the number of eggs found in their neſts, owing probably to the young being deſtroyed by the floods, which muſt often riſe above the level of the holes where they are bred.

Except in the breeding ſeaſon, this bird is uſually ſeen alone, flying near the ſurface of the water with the rapidity of an arrow, like a little brilliant meteor, by which appearance the eye is enabled to follow its long-continued courſe. Conſidering the ſhortneſs of its wings, the velocity with which it flies is ſurpriſing.

Ornithologiſts inform us that Kingfiſhers are found in almoſt every part of the globe; but it does not appear that more than this one ſpecies has ever been ſeen in Europe.



OF THE SPOONBILL.

THE bill is broad, long, flat, and thin, the end widening into a roundiſh form not unlike a ſpoon; the noſtrils ſmall, and placed near the baſe; the tongue ſmall and pointed, and the feet ſemi-palmated.

This genus conſiſts of only three known ſpecies, and three varieties, and theſe are thinly diſperſed over various parts of the globe. Their common reſidence is on the ſea-ſhores, or the contiguous fenny ſwamps which are occaſionally overflowed by the tide, or on ſuch low marſhy coaſts as are conſtantly covered with ſtagnant pools of water. Theſe places they very ſeldom quit, but they ſometimes are ſeen by the ſides of lakes or rivers in the interior parts of the country. They feed on various kinds of little fiſhes, and ſmall ſhell-fiſh, which they ſwallow whole, alſo on worms, inſects, frogs, and the various other inhabitants of the ſlimy pools, through which they wade, and ſearch the mud with their curiouſly conſtructed bills; and ſometimes they eat the weeds, graſſes, and roots which grow in thoſe boggy places.





SPOONBILL,

OR, WHITE SPOONBILL.

(*Platalea leucorodia*, Lin.—*La Spatule*, Buff.)

THE Spoonbill meaſures two feet eight inches in length, and is about the bulk of the common Heron, but its legs and neck are ſhorter. The whole plumage is white, though ſome few have been noticed with the quills tipped with black.

The bill, which flaps together not unlike two pieces of leather, is the moſt ſtriking feature in this bird: it is ſix inches and a half long, broad and

thick at the baſe, and very flat towards the extremity, where, in ſhape, it is widened and rounded like the mouth of a muſtard ſpatula. It is rimmed on the edges with a black border, and terminated with a ſmall downward bent point or nib. The colour of the bill varies in different birds; in ſome, the little ridges which wave acroſs the upper bill, are ſpotted, in others ſtriped with black or brown, and generally the ground colour of both mandibles is in different ſhades of deeper or lighter yellow. The inſides, towards the gape of the mouth, near the edges, are ſtudded with ſmall hard tubercles or furrowed prominences, and are alſo rough near the extremities of the bill, which enables theſe birds to hold their ſlippery prey. A black bare ſkin extends from the bill round the eyes, the irides of which are grey; the ſkin which covers the gullet is alſo black and bare, and is capable of great diſtention. The feathers on the hinder part of the head are long and narrow, and form a ſort of tuft or creſt which falls behind. The toes are connected near their junction by webs which reach the ſecond joint of the outer toe and the firſt of the inner ones, and ſlightly border them on each ſide to their extremities. The feet, legs, and bare part of the thighs are covered with a hard and ſcaly ſkin of a dirty black colour.

The White Spoonbill migrates northward in the ſummer, and returns to ſouthern climes on the ap-

proach of winter, and is met with in all the intermediate low countries, between the Ferro Iſles and the Cape of Good Hope. It is ſaid that they were formerly numerous on the marſhes of Sevenhuys, near Leyden in Holland. In England they are rare viſitants: Pennant mentions that a flock of them migrated into the marſhes near Yarmouth in April, 1774.

Like the Rooks and the Herons, they build their neſts on the tops of large trees, lay three or four eggs, the ſize of thoſe of a hen, of a white colour ſprinkled with pale red, and are very noiſy during the breeding ſeaſon. The inteſtines are deſcribed as being very long, and the *trachea arteria* is like that of the Crane, and makes a double inflection in the thorax.



OF THE CRANE.

THE characters by which this genus is diſtinguiſhed, are a long, ſtrong, ſtraight, ſharp-pointed bill, noſtrils linear, tongue pointed, the toes connected by a membrane as far as the firſt joint, and the middle claw of ſome of the ſpecies pectinated. Their thighs are half naked, and their legs long, by which, without wetting their plumage, they are enabled to wade deep in the water, where they ſtand motionleſs awaiting the approach of the unſuſpecting finny tribes, and the moment theſe are within reach, they ſtrike them with their bill, admirably formed for the purpoſe, with the rapidity of a dart. Their body is ſlender, and covered with a very thin ſkin; their wings, which are very large and ſtrong, contain twenty-four quills; and their tails are ſhort. They live moſtly in lakes and fens upon water animals; they alſo occaſionally eat grain and herbage, and they build their neſts chiefly upon the ground. Their fleſh is ſavoury.

The Crane differs from the Stork and the Heron in the ſingular conformation of the windpipe, which "entering far into the breaſt bone, (which has a cavity to receive it) and being thrice reflected, goes out again at the ſame hole, and ſo turns down to the lungs." * It differs from them alſo in ſome other particulars, both internally and externally.

* Willoughby.



CRANE,

OR, COMMON CRANE.

(*Ardea Grus*, Lin.—*La Grue*, Buff.)

THE bill is about four inches long, ſtraight, pointed, and compreſſed at the ſides, of a greeniſh black colour, turning lighter towards the point; the tongue is broad and ſhort, and horny at the

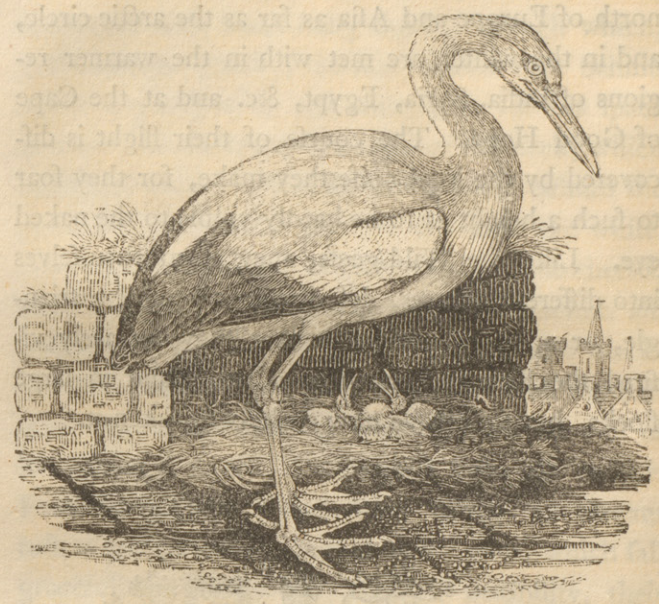
tip. The forehead, to the middle of the crown, is covered with black hairy down, through which, if the bird be healthy, the ſkin appears red; behind this it is nearly bare, and entirely ſo for the ſpace of about two inches on the nape of the neck, which is aſh coloured. The ſides of the head, behind the eyes, and the hinder part of the neck are white. The ſpace between the bill and the eyes, the cheeks, and the fore part of the neck, are of a blackiſh aſh colour. The greater wing coverts are alſo blackiſh, and thoſe fartheſt from the body, with the baſtard wing and quills are quite black: the reſt of its plumage is of a fine waved light aſh colour. From the pinion of each wing ſprings an elegant tuft of looſe feathers, curled at the ends, which fall gracefully over the tail, in their flexibility, their poſition, and their texture, reſembling the plumes of the Oſtrich. The legs and bare part of the thighs are black. The Crane meaſures, when extended, from the tip of the bill to the toes, more than five feet in length, and weighs nearly ten pounds; its gait is erect, and its figure tall and ſlender.

This ſpecies is widely ſpread, and, in its migrations, performs the boldeſt and moſt diſtant journies,

"Marking the tracts of air, the clamorous Cranes
"Wheel their due flight, in varied lines deſcried;
"And each with out-ſtretch'd neck his rank maintains
"In marſhall'd order through the ethereal void."

In the ſummer they ſpread themſelves over the north of Europe and Aſia as far as the arctic circle, and in the winter are met with in the warmer regions of India, Syria, Egypt, &c. and at the Cape of Good Hope. The courſe of their flight is diſcovered by the loud noiſe they make, for they ſoar to ſuch a height as to be hardly viſible to the naked eye. Like the Wild-geeſe, they form themſelves into different figures, deſcribing a wedge, a triangle, or a circle. It is ſaid that they formerly viſited the fens and marſhes of this iſland in large flocks, but they have now entirely forſaken it.





STORK,

OR, WHITE STORK.

(*Ardea Ciconia*, Lin.—*La Cigogne*, Buff.)

THE White Stork is ſmaller than the Crane, but much larger than the Heron: its length, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail is three feet ſix inches; and its breadth, from tip to tip, above ſix feet. The bill is of a fine red colour, and its length, from the tip to the corners of the mouth is ſeven inches; the legs and bare part of the thighs are alſo of the ſame colour; the former below the

knees meaſure eight inches, and the latter five. The plumage is of a bright white, except the quills, greater coverts, and ſome of the ſcapulars, which are black; the eyes are dark and full, the orbits bare of feathers, and of a duſky reddiſh hue. The neck is long and arched; the feathers near the breaſt, like thoſe of the Heron, are long and pendulous, the ſecondary quills are nearly of the ſame length as the primaries, and when the wings are cloſed, they cover its ſhort tail. The female nearly reſembles the male in her plumage and general appearance: her neſt is made of dry ſticks, twigs, and aquatic plants, ſometimes on large trees or the ſummits of high rocky cliffs: this, however, ſeldom happens, for the Stork prefers the neighbourhood of populous places, where it finds protection from the inhabitants, who, for ages, have regarded both the bird and its neſt as ſacred; and commonly place them boxes on the tops of the houſes wherein to make their neſts, to which they return after the moſt diſtant journies, and every Stork takes poſſeſſion of his own box. When theſe are not provided for them, they build on the tops of chimnies, ſteeples, and lofty ruins.

The Stork lays from two to four eggs, the ſize and colour of thoſe of a gooſe, and the male and female ſit upon them by turns. They are ſingularly attentive to their young, both together never

quitting the neſt, which is conſtantly watched by one of them, while the other is ſeeking for, and bringing proviſions, which the young receive with a ſort of whiſtling noiſe.

The food of the Stork conſiſts of ſerpents, lizards, frogs, ſmall fiſh, &c. for which it watches with a keen eye, on the margins of lakes and pools, and in ſwamps and marſhes. In low countries abounding with places of this deſcription, the Stork is a welcome viſitant, and always meets a friendly reception.

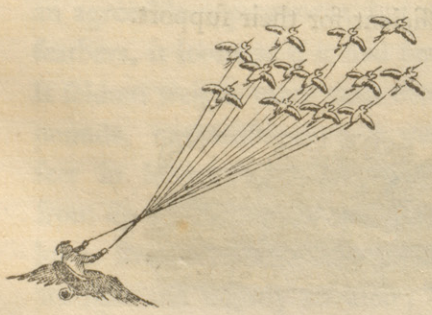
In its migrations this bird avoids alike the extremes of heat and cold: in ſummer it is never ſeen farther north than Sweden or Ruſſia, and in winter it is not known to venture further ſouthward than Egypt, where it is conſtantly ſeen during that ſeaſon: in the intermediate countries, both in Aſia and Europe, it is common in the temperate ſeaſons of the year.

Before the Storks take their departure from their northern ſummer reſidence, they aſſemble in large flocks, and ſeem to confer on the plan of their projected route. Though they are very ſilent at other times, on this occaſion they make a ſingular clattering noiſe with their bills, and all ſeems buſtle and conſultation. It is ſaid that the firſt north wind is the ſignal for their departure, when the whole body become ſilent, and move at once, ge-

nerally in the night, and, taking an extenſive ſpiral courſe, they are ſoon loſt in the air.*

The Stork is now ſeldom ſeen in Britain: Wallis, in his hiſtory of Northumberland, mentions one which was killed near Chollerford-bridge, in the year 1766. Its ſkin was nailed up againſt the wall of the inn at that place, and drew crowds of people from the adjacent parts to view it. The foregoing figure was taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe muſeum.

* "The Stork in the heavens knoweth her appointed times; and the Turtle and the Crane, and the Swallow obſerve the time of their coming." *Jeremiah* viii. 7.



OF THE HERON.

Some ornithologiſts have ſeparated this tribe from the Cranes and the Storks, and from the difference obſervable in the conformation of their parts, conſider them as a diſtinct genus: others, preferring the Linnæan ſyſtem, claſs the whole together, and thus make them amount to above eighty diſtinct ſpecies, beſides varieties, widely diſtributed over various parts of the globe, all differing in their ſize, figure, and plumage, and with talents adapted to their various places of reſidence, or their peculiar purſuits. But notwithſtanding the difference in the colours of their plumage and their bills, the manners of all are nearly the ſame, as is alſo their character, which is ſtigmatized with cowardice and rapacity, indolence, and yet inſatiable hunger: they are, indeed, exceſſively voracious and deſtructive; but from the meagre-looking form of their bodies, to an inaccurate obſerver, the greateſt abundance might ſeem inſufficient for their ſupport.





HERON.

COMMON HERON, HERONSEWGH, OR HERONSHAW.

(*Ardea Major*, Lin.—*Le Heron hupé*, Buff.)

ALTHOUGH the Heron is of a long, lank, aukward ſhape, yet its plumage gives it on the whole an agreeable appearance; but when ſtripped of its feathers, it looks as if it had been ſtarved to death. It ſeldom weighs more than between three and four pounds, notwithſtanding it meaſures about three feet in length, and in the breadth of its wings, from tip to tip, above five. The bill is ſix inches long, ſtraight, pointed, and ſtrong, and its edges are thin and ſlightly ſerrated; the upper mandible

is of a yellowiſh horn colour, darkeſt on the ridge, the under one yellow. A bare ſkin, of a greeniſh colour, is extended from the beak beyond the eyes, the irides of which are yellow, and give them a fierce and piercing aſpect. The brow and crown of the head are white, bordered above the eyes by black lines which reach the nape of the neck, where they join a long flowing pendent creſt of the ſame colour. The upper part of the neck, in ſome, is white, in others pale aſh; the fore part, lower down, is ſpotted with a double row of black feathers, and thoſe which fall over the breaſt are long, looſe, and unwebbed; the ſhoulders and ſcapular feathers are alſo of the ſame kind of texture, of a grey colour, generally ſtreaked with white, and ſpread over its down-clothed back. The ridge of the wing is white, coverts and ſecondaries lead colour, baſtard wings and quills of a blueiſh black, as are alſo the long ſoft feathers which take their riſe on the ſides under the wings, and, falling down, meet at their tips, and hide all the under parts: the latter, next the ſkin, are covered with a thick, matted, dirty white down, except about the belly and vent, which are almoſt bare. The tail is ſhort, and conſiſts of twelve feathers of a cinereous or browniſh lead colour; the legs are dirty green, long, bare above the knees, and the middle claw is jagged on the inner edge.

The female has not the long flowing creſt, or

the long feathers which hang over the breaſt of the male, and her whole plumage is more uniformly dull and obſcure. In the breeding ſeaſon they congregate in large ſocieties, and, like the Rooks, build their neſt on trees, with ſticks, lined with dried graſs, wool, and other warm materials. The female lays from four to ſix eggs, of a pale greeniſh blue colour. *

* "A remarkable circumſtance, with reſpect to theſe birds, occurred not long ago, at Dallam Tower, in Weſtmorland, the ſeat of Daniel Wilſon, Eſq:—

"There were two groves adjoining to the park: one of which, for many years, had been reſorted to by a number of Herons, which there built and bred; the other was one of the largeſt rookeries in the country. The two tribes lived together for a long time without any diſputes. At length the trees occupied by the Herons, conſiſting of ſome very fine old oaks, were cut down in the ſpring of 1775, and the young brood periſhed by the fall of the timber. The parent birds immediately ſet about preparing new habitations, in order to breed again; but, as the trees in the neighbourhood of their old neſts were only of a late growth, and not ſufficiently high to ſecure them from the depredations of boys, they determined to effect a ſettlement in the rookery. The Rooks made an obſtinate reſiſtance; but, after a very violent conteſt, in the courſe of which many of the Rooks, and ſome of their antagoniſts, loſt their lives, the Herons at laſt ſucceeded in their attempt, built their neſts, and brought out their young.

"The next ſeaſon the ſame conteſts took place, which terminated like the former, by the victory of the Herons. Since that time peace ſeems to have been agreed upon between them: the

The Heron is deſcribed by Buffon as exhibiting the picture of wretchedneſs, anxiety, and indigence, condemned to ſtruggle perpetually with miſery and want, and ſickened by the reſtleſs cravings of a famiſhed appetite, &c. However faithful this ingenious naturaliſt may have been in pourtraying the appearance of the Heron, yet others are not inclined to adopt his ſentiments in deſcribing its habits and manners, or to agree with him in opinion that it is one of the moſt wretched of animated beings. It is probable that it ſuffers no more than other birds, many ſpecies of which employ equal attention in looking for their prey, and it is not unlikely that the Heron derives pleaſure from it inſtead of pain. This bird, however, is of a melancholy deportment, a ſilent and patient creature; and will, in the moſt ſevere weather, ſtand motionleſs a long time in the water, fixed to a ſpot, in appearance like the ſtump or root of a tree, waiting for its prey, which conſiſts of frogs, water-newts, eels, and other kinds of fiſh; and it is alſo ſaid that it will devour field-mice.

The Heron traverſes the country to a great diſtance in queſt of ſome convenient or favourite fiſhing ſpot, and in its aerial journies ſoars to a great

Rooks have relinquiſhed poſſeſſion of that part of the grove which the Herons occupy; the Herons confine themſelves to thoſe trees they firſt ſeized upon, and the two ſpecies live together in as much harmony as they did before their quarrel." *Heyſham.*

height, to which the eye is directed by its harſh cry, uttered from time to time while on the wing. In flying it draws the head between the ſhoulders, and the legs ſtretched out ſeem, like the longer tails of ſome birds, to ſerve the office of a rudder. The motion of their wings is heavy and flagging, and yet they get forward at a greater rate than would be imagined.

In England Herons were formerly ranked among the royal game, and protected as ſuch by the laws; and whoever deſtroyed their eggs was liable to a penalty of twenty ſhillings for each offence. Heron hawking was at that time a favourite diverſion among the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, at whoſe tables this bird was a favourite diſh, and was as much eſteemed as pheaſants and peacocks.



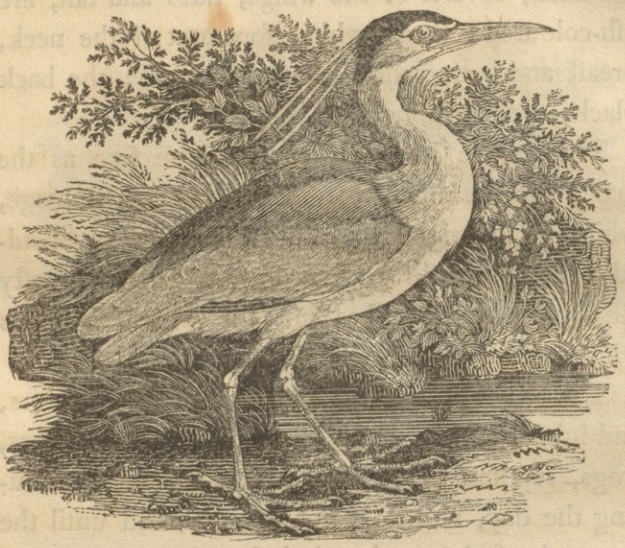
GREAT WHITE HERON.

(*Ardea alba*, Lin.—*Le Heron blanc*, Buff.)

THE great white Heron is of nearly the ſame bulk as the common Heron, but its legs are longer. It has no creſt, and its plumage is wholly white; its bill yellow, and its legs black.

Its character and manner of living are the ſame as thoſe of the common Heron, and it is found in the ſame countries, though this ſpecies is not nearly ſo numerous. It has rarely been ſeen in Great Britain. Pennant, in his Arctic Zoology, ſays it is found in the Ruſſian dominions, about the Caſpian and Black Seas, the lakes of Great Tartary, and the river Irtiſch, and ſometimes as far north as latitude 53. Latham ſays, it is met with at New York, in America, from June to October; at different ſeaſons of the year it is found in Jamaica, and in the Brazils: and our circumnavigators have met with it at New Zealand.





NIGHT HERON.

LESSER ASH-COLOURED HERON, OR NIGHT RAVEN.

(*Ardea nyctícorax*, Lin.—*Le Bihoreau*, Buff.)

THE length of this bird is about twenty inches. The bill is three inches and three-quarters long, ſlightly arched, ſtrong, and black, inclining to yellow at the baſe; the ſkin from the beak round the eyes is bare, and of a greeniſh colour; irides yellow. A white line is extended from the beak over each eye; a black patch, gloſſed with green, covers the crown of the head and nape of the neck, from which three long narrow white feathers, tipped with brown, hang looſe and waving: the hinder part of

the neck, coverts of the wings, ſides and tail, are aſh-coloured; throat white, fore part of the neck, breaſt and belly yellowiſh white or buff; the back black, the legs a greeniſh yellow.

The female is nearly of the ſame ſize as the male, but ſhe differs conſiderably in her plumage, which is leſs bright and diſtinct, being more blended with clay or dirty white, brown, grey, and ruſty aſh-colour, and ſhe has not the delicate plumes which flow from the head of the male.

The Night Heron frequents the ſea-ſhores, rivers, and inland marſhes, and lives upon crickets, ſlugs, frogs, reptiles, and fiſh. It remains concealed during the day, and does not roam abroad until the approach of night, when it is heard and known by its rough, harſh, and diſagreeable cry, which is by ſome compared to the noiſe made by a perſon ſtraining to vomit. Some ornithologiſts affirm that the female builds her neſt on trees, others that ſhe builds it on rocky cliffs: probably both accounts are right. She lays three or four white eggs.

This ſpecies is not numerous, although widely diſperſed over Europe, Aſia, and America.

The above figure was taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum, and is the only one the author has ſeen. The bird is indeed very uncommon in this country. Latham mentions one in the Leverian Muſeum, which was ſhot not many miles from London, in May, 1782.



EGRET.

(*Ardea Garzette*, Lin.—*Egretta*, Buff.)

THE Egret is one of the ſmalleſt, as well as the moſt elegant of the Heron tribe: its ſhape is delicate, and its plumage as white as ſnow; but what conſtitute its principal beauty are the ſoft, ſilky, flowing plumes on the head, breaſt, and ſhoulders: they conſiſt of ſingle ſlender ſhafts, thinly ſet with pairs of fine ſoft threads, which float on the ſlighteſt breath of air. Thoſe which ariſe from the ſhoulders are extended over the back, and flow beyond the tail. Theſe plumes were formerly uſed to decorate the helmets of warriors: they are now applied to a gentler and better purpoſe, in or-

namenting the head-dreſſes of the European ladies, and the turbans of the Perſians and Turks.

The Egret ſeldom exceeds a pound and a half in weight, and rarely a foot and a half in length. A bare green ſkin is extended from the beak to the eyes, the irides of which are pale yellow: the bill and legs are black. Like the common Heron they perch and build their neſts on trees, and live on the ſame kinds of food.

This ſpecies is found in almoſt every temperate and warm climate, and muſt formerly have been plentiful in Great Britain, if it be the ſame bird as that mentioned by Leland in the liſt or bill of fare prepared for the famous feaſt of Archbiſhop Nevil, in which one thouſand of theſe birds were ſerved up. No wonder the ſpecies has become nearly extinct in this country!





BITTERN.

BOG-BUMPER, BITTER-BUM OR MIRE-DRUM.

(*Ardea Stellaris*, Lin.—*Le Butor*, Buff.)

THE Bittern is nearly as large as the common Heron; its legs are ſtronger, body more plump and fleſhy, and its neck is more thickly cloathed with feathers. The beak is ſtrong at the baſe, ſtraight, ſharp on the edges, and gradually tapers to an acute point; the upper mandible is brown, the under inclining to green; the mouth is wide,

the gape extending beyond the eyes, with a duſky patch at each angle: the irides are yellow. The crown of the head is ſomewhat depreſſed, and covered with long black feathers; the throat is yellowiſh white, the ſides of the neck pale ruſt colour, variegated with black, in ſpotted, waved, and narrow tranſverſe lines, and on the fore part the ground colour is whitiſh, and the feathers fall down in leſs broken and darker lengthened ſtripes. Theſe neck feathers, which it can raiſe and depreſs at pleaſure, are long, and looſe, and inclining backward, cover the neck behind; thoſe below them on the breaſt, to the thighs, are ſtreaked lengthwiſe with black, edged with yellowiſh white: the thighs, belly, and vent are of a dull pale yellow, clouded with dingy brown. The plumage on the back and wings is marked with black zigzag lines, bars and ſtreaks, upon a ground ſhaded with ruſt colour and yellow. The baſtard wings, greater coverts, and quills are brown, barred with black. The tail, which conſiſts only of ten feathers, is very ſhort; the legs are of a pale green, bare a little above the knees; the claws, particularly thoſe on the hind toes, are long and ſharp, the middle ones ſerrated.

The female is leſs than the male; her plumage is darker, and the feathers on her head, breaſt, and neck are ſhorter, and the colours not ſo diſtinctly marked. She makes an artleſs neſt, compoſed

chiefly of the withered ſtalks and leaves of the high coarſe herbage, in the midſt of which it is placed, and lays from four to ſix eggs of a greeniſh white colour.

The Bittern is a ſhy ſolitary bird; it is never ſeen on the wing in the day time, but ſits, commonly with the head erect, hid among the reeds and ruſhes in the marſhes, where it always takes up its abode, and from whence it will not ſtir, unleſs it is diſturbed by the ſportſman. When it changes its haunts, it removes in the duſk of the evening, and then riſing in a ſpiral direction, ſoars to a vaſt height. It flies in the ſame heavy manner as the Heron, and might be miſtaken for that bird, were it not for the ſingularly reſounding cry which it utters from time to time while on the wing; but this cry is feeble when compared to the hollow booming noiſe * which it makes during the night time, in the breeding ſeaſon, from its ſwampy retreats.

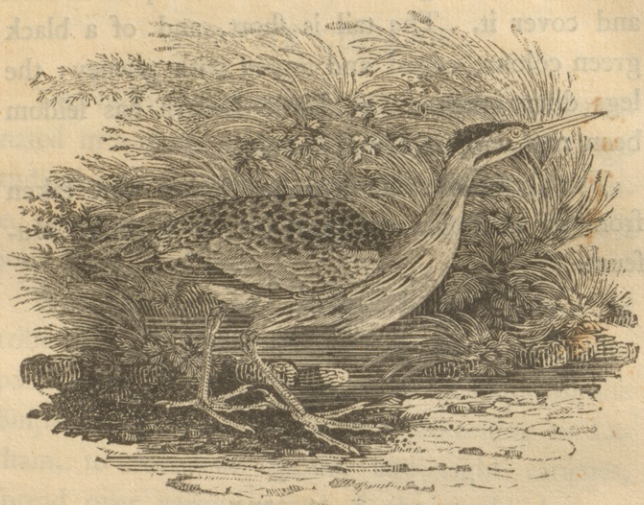
The Bittern, when attacked by the Buzzard, or other birds of prey, defends itſelf with great courage, and generally beats off ſuch aſſailants; neither does it betray any ſymptoms of fear, when wounded by the ſportſman, but eyes him with a keen undaunted look, and when driven to extremi-

* "The Bittern booms along the ſounding marſh,
"Mixt with the cries of Heron and Mallard harſh."

ty, will attack him with the utmoſt vigour, wounding his legs, or aiming at his eyes with its ſharp and piercing bill. It was formerly held in much eſtimation at the tables of the great, and is again recovering its credit as a faſhionable diſh.

This bird lives upon the ſame water animals as the Heron, for which it patiently watches, unmoved, for hours together.





LITTLE BITTERN.

(*Ardea minuta*, Lin.—*Le Blongios*, Buff.)

THIS bird, in the bulk of its body, is not much bigger than the Throſtle, meaſuring only about fifteen inches in length. From the corners of the mouth, a black ſtroke extends acroſs the under ſide of the cheeks; and a patch of black, gloſſed with green and edged with cheſnut, covers the crown of its head. On the back, rump, and ſcapulars, the feathers are dark brown, edged with pale ruſty-coloured red; the ſides of the neck, and the breaſt, are of the ſame colours, but the brown on the middle of each feather is in narrower ſtreaks. The belly is white; the hinder part of the neck is

bare, but the long feathers on the fore part lie back and cover it. The tail is ſhort, and of a black green colour, edged and tipped with tawney: the legs dirty green. The Little Bittern has ſeldom been met with in Great Britain.

The above drawing and deſcription were taken from an ill-ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum.



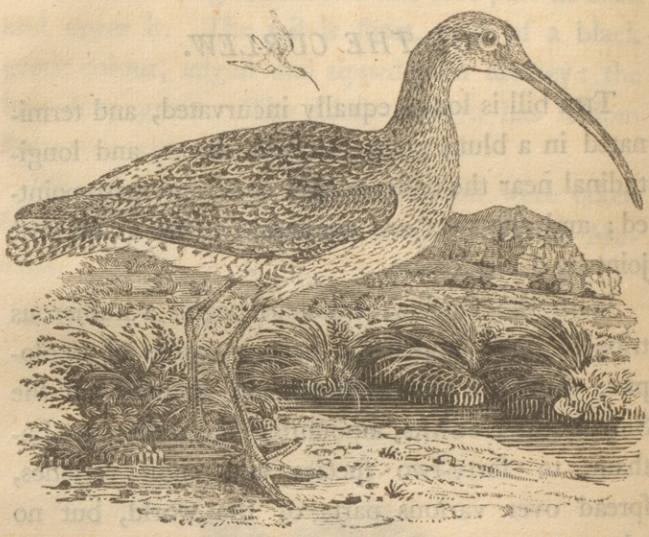
OF THE CURLEW.

THE bill is long, equally incurvated, and terminated in a blunt point; noſtrils linear, and longitudinal near the baſe; tongue ſhort and ſharp pointed; and the toes are connected as far as the firſt joint by a membrane.

With the Curlew, Linnæus begins a numerous tribe of birds under the generic name of Scolopax, which, in his arrangement, includes all the Snipes and Godwits, amounting, according to Latham, to forty-two ſpecies and eight varieties, ſpread over various parts of the world, but no where very numerous.

Buffon deſcribes fifteen ſpecies and varieties of the Curlew, and Latham ten, only two or three of which are Britiſh birds. They feed upon worms which they pick up on the ſurface, or with their bills dig from the ſoft earth: on theſe they depend for their principal ſupport; but they alſo devour the various kinds of inſects which ſwarm in the mud, and in the wet boggy grounds, where theſe birds chiefly take up their abode.





CURLEW.

(*Scolopax arquata*, Lin.—*Le Courlis*, Buff.)

The Curlew generally meaſures about two feet in length, and from tip to tip above three feet. The bill is about ſeven inches long, of a regular curve, and tender ſubſtance at the point, which is blunt. The upper mandible is black, gradually ſoftening into brown towards the baſe; the under one fleſh coloured. The head, neck, upper part of the back, and wing coverts, are of a pale brown, the middle of each feather black, edged and deeply indented with pale ruſt colour, or light grey. The breaſt, belly, and the lower part of the back are dull white, the latter thinly ſpotted with black,

and the two former with oblong ſtrokes more thickly ſet, of the ſame colour. The quill feathers are black, the inner webs croſſed or ſpotted with white: the tail is barred with black, on a white ground tinged with red: the legs are bare a little above the knees, of a blueiſh colour, and the toes are thick, and flat on the underſide.

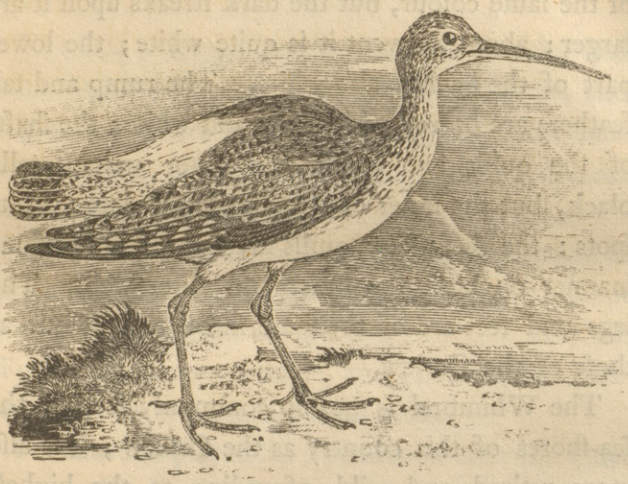
Theſe birds differ much in ſize, as well as in the different ſhades of their plumage; ſome of them weighing not more than twenty-two ounces, and others as much as thirty-ſeven. In the plumage of ſome the white parts are much more diſtinct and clear than in others, which are more uniformly grey, and tinged with pale brown.

The female is ſo nearly like the male, that any particular deſcription of her is unneceſſary: ſhe makes her neſt upon the ground, in a dry tuft of ruſhes or graſs, of ſuch withered materials as are found near, and lays four eggs of a greeniſh caſt, ſpotted with brown.

The Curlew is met with by travellers in moſt parts of Europe, from Iceland to the Mediterranean Iſlands. In Britain their ſummer reſidence is upon the large, heathy, boggy moors, where they breed. Their food conſiſts of worms, flies, and inſects, which they pick out of the ſoft moſſy ground by the marſhy pools, which are common in ſuch places. In winter they depart to the ſea-ſide, where they are ſeen in great numbers, and then live upon the

worms, marine inſects, and other fiſhy ſubſtances which they pick up on the beach, and among the looſe rocks and pools left by the retiring tide. The fleſh of the Curlew has been charactized by ſome as very good, and of a fine flavour; by others as directly the reverſe: the truth is, that, while they are in health and ſeaſon, and live on the moors, ſcarcely any bird can excel them in goodneſs; but when they have lived ſome time on the ſea-ſhore, they acquire a rank and fiſhy taſte.





WHIMBREL.

(*Scolopax Phæopus*, Lin.—*Le petite Courlis*, Buff.)

THE Whimbrel is only about half the ſize of the Curlew, which it very nearly reſembles in ſhape, the colours of its plumage, and manner of living. It is about ſeventeen inches in length, and twenty-nine in breadth, and weighs about fourteen ounces. The bill is about three inches long, the upper mandible black, the under one pale red. The upper part of the head is black, divided in the middle of the crown by a white line from the brow to the hinder part: between the bill and the eyes there is a darkiſh oblong ſpot: the ſides of the head, neck, and breaſt, are of a pale brown, marked with nar-

row dark ſtreaks pointing downwards: the belly is of the ſame colour, but the dark ſtreaks upon it are larger; about the vent it is quite white; the lower part of the back is alſo white. The rump and tail feathers are barred with black and white; the ſhafts of the quills are white, the outer webs totally black, but the inner ones marked with large white ſpots: the ſecondary quills are ſpotted in the ſame manner on both the inner and outer webs. The legs and feet are of the ſame ſhape and colour as thoſe of the Curlew.

The Whimbrel is not ſo commonly ſeen on the ſea-ſhores of this country as the Curlew; it is alſo more retired and wild, aſcending to the higheſt mountain heaths in ſpring and ſummer to feed and rear its young.

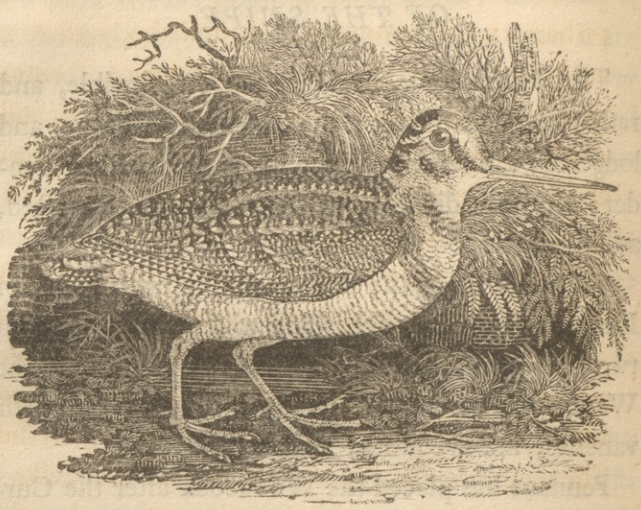


OF THE SNIPE.

THE bill is long, ſtraight, narrow, flexible, and rather blunt at the tip; the noſtrils are linear, and lodged in a furrow; the tongue is pointed and ſlender; the toes divided, or very ſlightly connected, and the back toe very ſmall.

This diviſion of the numerous Scolopax genus of Linnæus amounts, according to Latham, to about twenty ſpecies, beſides varieties, of which only the Woodcock, common Snipe, and Judcock, and their varieties, are accounted Britiſh birds.

Pennant has placed the Woodcock after the Curlews as the head of the Godwits and Snipes; and others are of opinion that the Knot, from the ſimilarity of its figure to that of the Woodcock, ought to be claſſed in this tribe. In theſe ſub-diviſions ornithologiſts may vary their claſſifications without end. As in a chain doubly ſuſpended, the rings of which gradually diminiſh towards the middle, the leading features of ſome particular bird may point it out as a head to a tribe; others from ſimilarity of ſhape, plumage, or habits, will form, by almoſt imperceptible variations, the connecting links; and thoſe which may be ſaid to compoſe the curvature of the bottom, by gradations equally minute, will riſe to the laſt ring of the other end, which, as the head of another tribe, will be marked with characters very different from the firſt.



WOODCOCK.

(*Scolopax Ruſticola*, Lin.—*La Becaſſe*, Buff.)

THE Woodcock meaſures fourteen inches in length, and twenty-ſix in breadth, and generally weighs about twelve ounces. The ſhape of the head is remarkable, being rather triangular than round, with the eyes placed near the top, and the ears very forward, nearly on a line with the corners of the mouth. The upper mandible, which meaſures about three inches, is furrowed nearly its whole length, and at the tip, it projects beyond, and hangs over the under one, ending in a kind of knob, which, like thoſe of others of the ſame genus, is ſuſceptible of the

fineſt feeling, and calculated by that means, aided, perhaps, by an acute ſmell, to find the ſmall worms in the ſoft moiſt grounds, from whence it extracts them with its ſharp-pointed tongue. With the bill it alſo turns over and toſſes the fallen leaves in ſearch of the inſects which ſhelter underneath. The crown of the head is of an aſh colour, the nape and back part of its neck black, marked with three bars of ruſty red: a black line extends from the corners of the mouth to the eyes, the orbits of which are pale buff; the whole under parts are yellowiſh white, numerouſly barred with dark waved lines. The tail conſiſts of twelve feathers, which, like the quills, are black, and indented acroſs with reddiſh ſpots on the edges: the tip is aſh-coloured above, and of a gloſſy white below. The legs are ſhort, feathered to the knees, and, in ſome, are of a blueiſh caſt, in others, of a ſallow fleſh colour. The upper parts of the plumage are ſo marbled, ſpotted, barred, ſtreaked and variegated, that to deſcribe them with accuracy would be difficult and tedious. The colours, conſiſting of black, white, grey, aſh, red, brown, rufous and yellow, are ſo diſpoſed in rows, croſſed and broken at intervals by lines and marks of different ſhapes, that the whole ſeems to the eye, at a little diſtance, blended together and confuſed, which makes the bird appear exactly like the withered ſtalks and leaves of ferns, ſticks, moſs and graſſes, which form the back ground of the

ſcenery by which it is ſheltered in its moiſt and ſolitary retreats. The ſportſman only, by being accuſtomed to it, is enabled to diſcover it, and his leading marks are its full dark eye, and gloſſy ſilver-white tipped tail. In plumage the female differs very little from the male, and, like moſt other female birds, only by being leſs brilliant in her colours.

The fleſh of the Woodcock is held in very high eſtimation, and hence it is eagerly ſought after by the ſportſman. It is hardly neceſſary to notice, that in cooking it, the entrails are not drawn, but roaſted within the bird, from whence they drop out with the gravy upon ſlices of toaſted bread, and are reliſhed as a delicious kind of ſauce.

The Woodcock is migratory, and in different ſeaſons is ſaid to inhabit every climate: it leaves the countries bordering upon the Baltic in the autumn and ſetting in of winter, on its route to this country. They do not come in large flocks, but keep dropping in upon our ſhores ſingly, or ſometimes in pairs, from the beginning of October till December. They muſt have the inſtinctive precaution of landing only in the night, or in dark miſty weather, for they are never ſeen to arrive; but are frequently diſcovered the next morning in any ditch which affords ſhelter, and particularly after the extraordinary fatigue occaſioned by the adverſe gales which they often have to encounter in their aerial voyage. They do not remain near the ſhores to take their reſt

longer than a day, but commonly find themſelves ſufficiently recruited in that time to proceed inland, to the very ſame haunts which they left the preceding ſeaſon. * In temperate weather they retire to the moſſy moors, and high bleak mountainous parts of the country; but as ſoon as the froſt ſets in, and the ſnows begin to fall, they return to lower and warmer ſituations, where they meet with boggy grounds and ſprings, and little oozing moſſy rills which are rarely frozen, and ſeek the ſhelter of cloſe buſhes of holly, furze and brakes in the woody glens, or hollow dells which are covered with underwood: there they remain concealed during the day, and remove to different haunts and feed only in the night. From the beginning of March to the end of that month, or ſometimes to the middle of April, they all keep drawing towards the coaſts, and avail themſelves of the firſt fair wind to return to their native woods: ſhould it happen to continue long to blow adverſely, they are thereby detained; and as their numbers increaſe,

* In the winter of 1797, the gamekeeper of E. M. Pleydell, Eſq. of Whatcombe, in Dorſetſhire, brought him a Woodcock, which he had caught in a net ſet for rabbits, alive and unhurt. Mr P. ſcratched the date upon a bit of thin braſs, and bent it round the Woodcock's leg, and let it fly. In December the next year, Mr Pleydell ſhot this bird with the braſs about its leg, in the very ſame wood where it had been firſt caught by the gamekeeper.—*(Communicated by Sir John Trevelyan, Bart.)*

they are more eaſily found and deſtroyed by the mercileſs ſportſman.

The female makes her neſt on the ground, generally at the root or ſtump of a decayed tree; it is careleſsly formed of a few dried fibres and leaves, upon which ſhe lays four or five eggs, larger than thoſe of a Pigeon, of a ruſty grey colour, blotched and marked with duſky ſpots. The young leave the neſt as ſoon as they are freed from the ſhell, but the parent birds continue to attend and aſſiſt them until they can provide for themſelves. Buffon ſays they ſometimes take a weak one under their throat, and convey it more than a thouſand paces.

Latham mentions three varieties of Britiſh Woodcocks: in the firſt, the head is of a pale red, body white, and the wings brown; the ſecond is of a dun, or rather cream colour; and the third of a pure white.* Dr Heyſham, in his Catalogue of Cumberland Animals, mentions his having met with one, the general colour of which was a fine

* A white Woodcock was ſeen three ſucceſſive winters in Penrice wood, near Penrice-Caſtle, in Glamorganſhire: it was repeatedly fluſhed and ſhot at during that time, in the very ſame place where it was firſt diſcovered: at laſt it was found dead, with ſeveral others which had periſhed by the ſeverity of the weather, in the winter of 1793.—This account, which was communicated to the author by Sir John Trevelyan, Bart. on the authority of the Rev. Dr Hunt, proves not only the exiſtence of white Woodcocks, but alſo the truth of the aſſertion, that the haunts of this bird are the ſame year after year.

pale aſh, with frequent bars of a very delicate rufous: tail brown, tipped with white; and the bill and legs fleſh colour. In addition to theſe, ſome other varieties are taken notice of by the late Marmaduke Tunſtall, Eſq. of Wycliffe, in his interleaved books on ornithology.

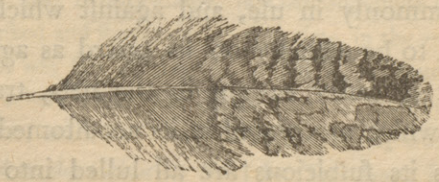
Latham and Pennant aſſert, that ſome Woodcocks deviate from the courſe which nature ſeems to have taught their ſpecies, by remaining throughout the year, and breeding in this country; and this aſſertion Mr Tunſtall corroborates by ſuch a number of well-authenticated inſtances, that the fact is unqueſtionable.

When the Woodcock is purſued by the ſportsman, its flight is very rapid, but ſhort, as it drops behind the firſt ſuitable ſheltering coppice with great ſuddenneſs, and in order to elude diſcovery, runs ſwiftly off, in queſt of ſome place where it may hide itſelf in greater ſecurity.

To deſcribe the various methods which are practiſed by fowlers to catch this bird, would be tedious; but it may not be improper to notice thoſe moſt commonly in uſe, and againſt which it does not ſeem to be equally on its guard as againſt the gun. It is eaſily caught in the nets, traps, and ſpringes which are placed in its accuſtomed runs or paths, as its ſuſpicions are all lulled into ſecurity by the ſilence of the night; and it will not fly or leap over any obſtacles which are placed in its

way, while it is in queſt of its food; therefore, in thoſe places, barriers and avenues formed of ſticks, ſtones, &c. are conſtructed ſo as to *weir* it into the fatal openings where it is entrapped: in like manner, a low fence made of the tops of broom ſtuck into the ground, acroſs the wet furrow of a field, or a runner from a ſpring which is not frozen, is ſufficient to ſtay its progreſs, and to make it ſeek from ſide to ſide for an opening through which it might paſs, and there it ſeldom eſcapes the nooſe that is ſet to ſecure it.

At the root of the firſt quill in each wing is a ſmall-pointed narrow feather very elaſtic, and much ſought after by painters, by whom it is uſed as a pencil. A feather of a ſimilar kind is found in the whole of this tribe, and alſo in every one of the Tringas and Plovers which the author has examined. The annexed figure repreſents a ſcapular feather of the Woodcock.

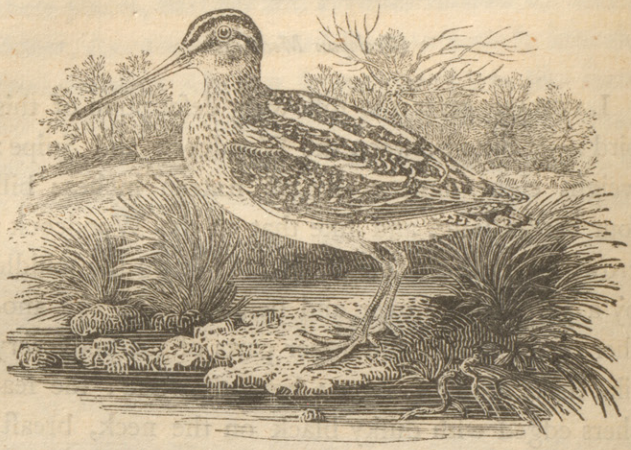


GREAT SNIPE.

(*Scolopax Media.*)

LATHAM gives the following deſcription of this bird:—"Size between the Woodcock and Snipe: weight eight ounces: length ſixteen inches: bill four inches long, and like that of the Woodcock: crown of the head black, divided down the middle by a pale ſtripe: over and beneath each eye another of the ſame: the upper parts of the body very like the Common Snipe: beneath white: the feathers edged with duſky black on the neck, breaſt, and ſides; and thoſe of the belly ſpotted with the ſame, but the middle of it is plain white: quills duſky: tail reddiſh, the two middle feathers plain, the others barred with black: legs black." He adds, "This is a rare ſpecies. A fine ſpecimen of it was ſhot in Lancaſhire, now in the Leverian Muſeum; ſaid alſo to have been met with in Kent." *

* The author has ſeen three ſpecimens of a large kind of Snipe called, by ſome ſportſmen, from being always found alone, the *Solitary Snipe*. They weighed the ſame as the above-mentioned, but differed in ſome ſlight particulars, meaſuring only twelve inches in length, and from tip to tip about nineteen. The upper parts of the plumage were nearly like thoſe of the Common Snipe: the breaſt, ſides, belly and vent white, ſpotted, barred, and undulated with black. It is not clearly aſcertained whether this be a diſtinct ſpecies of Snipe, or whether it acquires its bulk and change of plumage from age, and its ſolitary habits from ceaſing to breed.



COMMON SNIPE.

SNITE, OR HEATHER-BLEATER.

(*Scolopax Gallinago*, Lin.—*La Becaſſine*, Buff.)

THE common Snipe is generally about four ounces in weight, and meaſures twelve inches in length, and fourteen in breadth. The bill is nearly three inches long; in ſome pale brown, in others greeniſh yellow, rather flat and dark at the tip, and very ſmooth in the living bird; but it ſoon becomes dimpled like the end of a thimble, after the bird is dead: the head is divided lengthwiſe by three reddiſh or ruſty white lines, and two of black; one of the former paſſes along the middle of the crown, and one above each eye: a darkiſh mark is extended from the corners of the mouth nearly

to each eye, and the auriculars form ſpots of the ſame colour: the chin and fore part of the neck are yellowiſh white, the former plain, the latter ſpotted with brown. The ſcapulars are elegantly ſtriped lengthwiſe on one web, and barred on the other with black and yellow: the quills are duſky, the edge of the primaries, and tips of the ſecondaries, white; thoſe next to the back barred with black, and pale rufous: the breaſt and belly are white: the tail coverts are of a reddiſh brown, and ſo long as to cover the greater part of it: the tail conſiſts of fourteen feathers, the webs of which, as far as they are concealed by the coverts, are duſky, thence downward, tawney or ruſty orange, and irregularly marked or croſſed with black. The tip is commonly of a pale reddiſh yellow, but in ſome ſpecimens nearly white: the legs are pale green. *

The common reſidence of the Snipe is in ſmall bogs or wet grounds, where it is almoſt conſtantly digging and nibbling in the ſoft mud, in ſearch of its food, which conſiſts chiefly of a very ſmall kind of red tranſparent worm, about half an inch long; it is ſaid alſo to eat ſlugs, and the

* Mr Tunſtall mentions a "very curious pied Snipe which was ſhot in Bottley meadow, near Oxford, September 8, 1789, by a Mr Court: its throat, breaſt, back and wings were beautifully covered or ſtreaked with white, and on its forehead was a ſtar of the natural colour; it had alſo a ring round the neck and the tail, with the tips of the wings of the ſame colour."

inſects and grubs, of various kinds, which breed in great abundance in thoſe ſlimy ſtagnant places. In theſe retreats, when undiſturbed, the Snipe walks leiſurdy, with its head erect, and at ſhort intervals keeps moving the tail. But in this ſtate of tranquillity it is very rarely to be ſeen, as it is extremely watchful, and perceives the ſportſman or his dog at a great diſtance, and inſtantly conceals itſelf among the variegated withered herbage, ſo ſimilar in appearance to its own plumage, that it is almoſt impoſſible to diſcover it while ſquatted motionleſs in its ſeat: it ſeldom, however, waits the near approach of any perſon, particularly in open weather, but commonly ſprings, and takes flight at a diſtance beyond the reach of the gun. When firſt diſturbed, it utters a kind of feeble whiſtle, and generally flies againſt the wind, turning nimbly in a zigzag direction for two or three hundred paces, and ſometimes ſoaring almoſt out of ſight; its note is then ſomething like the bleating of a goat, but this is changed to a ſingular humming or drumming noiſe, uttered in its deſcent.

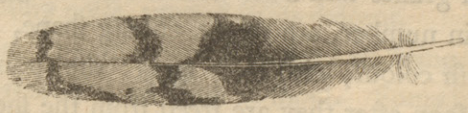
From its vigilance and manner of flying, it is one of the moſt difficult birds to ſhoot. Some ſportſmen can imitate their cries, and by that means draw them within reach of their ſhot; others, of a leſs honourable deſcription, prefer the more certain and leſs laborious method of catching them in the night by a ſpringe like that which is uſed for the Woodcock.

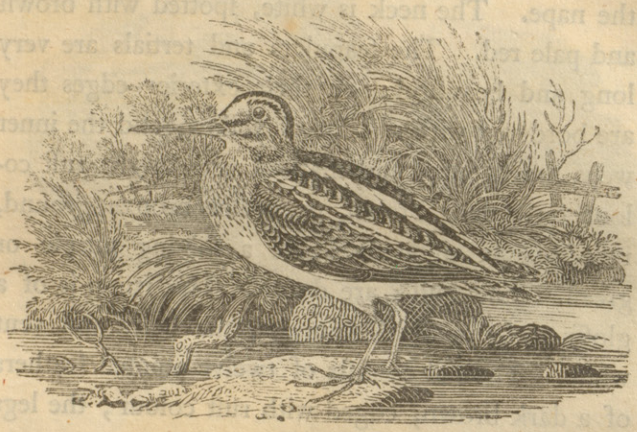
The Snipe is migratory, and is met with in all countries: like the Woodcock, it ſhuns the extremes of heat and cold by keeping upon the bleak moors in ſummer, and ſeeking the ſhelter of the vallies in winter. In ſevere froſts and ſtorms of ſnow, driven by the extremity of the weather, they ſeek the unfrozen boggy places, runners from ſprings, or any open ſtreamlet of water, and they are ſure to be found, often in conſiderable numbers, in theſe places, where they ſometimes ſit till nearly trodden upon before they will take their flight.

Although it is well known that numbers of Snipes leave Great Britain in the ſpring, and return in the autumn, yet it is equally well aſcertained that many conſtantly remain and breed in various parts of the country, for their neſts and young ones have been ſo often found as to leave no doubt of this fact. The female makes her neſt in the moſt retired and inacceſſible part of the moraſs, generally under the ſtump of an alder or willow: it is compoſed of withered graſſes and a few feathers: her eggs, four or five in number, are of an oblong ſhape, and of a greeniſh colour, with ruſty ſpots: the young ones run off ſoon after they are freed from the ſhell, but they are attended by the parent birds until their bills have acquired a ſufficient firmneſs to enable them to provide for themſelves.

The Snipe is a very fat bird, but its fat does not cloy, and very rarely diſagrees even with the weakeſt ſtomach. It is much eſteemed as a delicious and well flavoured diſh, and is cooked in the ſame manner as the Woodcock.







JUDCOCK.

JACK SNIPE, GID, OR JETCOCK.

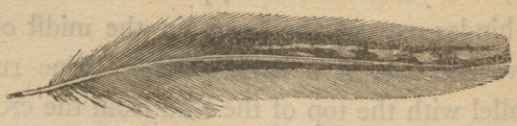
(*Scolopax Gallinula*, Lin.—*La petite Becaſſine*, Buff.)

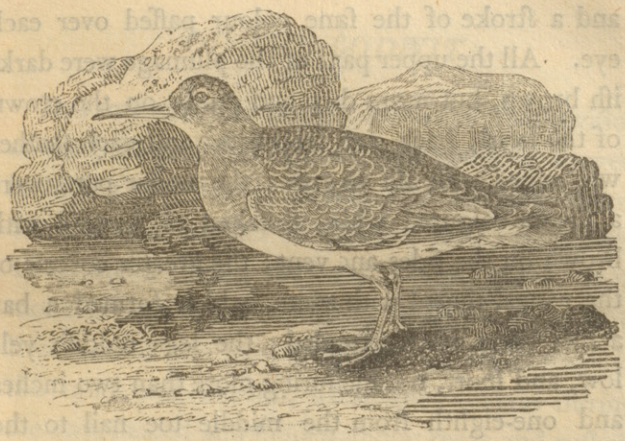
THE Judcock, in its figure and plumage, nearly reſembles the Common Snipe; but it is only about half its weight, ſeldom exceeding two ounces, or meaſuring more, from the tip of its beak to the end of its tail, than eight inches and a half: the bill is black at the tip, and light towards the baſe, and rather more than an inch and a half in length. A black ſtreak divides the head lengthwiſe from the baſe of the bill to the nape of the neck, and another, of a yellowiſh colour, paſſes over each eye to the hinder part of the head: in the midſt of this, above the eye, is a narrow black ſtripe running parallel with the top of the head from the crown to

the nape. The neck is white, ſpotted with brown and pale red. The ſcapulars and tertials are very long and beautiful; on their exterior edges they are bordered with a ſtripe of yellow, and the inner webs are ſtreaked and marked with bright ruſt colour on a deep brown, or rather bronze ground, reflecting in different lights a ſhining purple or green. The quills are duſky. The rump is of a gloſſy violet or blueiſh purple; the belly and vent white. The tail conſiſts of twelve pointed feathers of a dark brown, edged with ruſt colour; the legs are of a dirty or dull green.

The Judcock is of nearly the ſame character as the Snipe, it feeds upon the ſame kinds of food, lives and breeds in the ſame ſwamps and marſhes, and conceals itſelf from the ſportſman with as great circumſpection, among the ruſhes or tufts of coarſe graſs. It, however, differs in this particular, that it ſeldom riſes from its lurking place until it is almoſt trampled upon, and, when fluſhed, does not fly to ſo great a diſtance. It is as much eſteemed as the Snipe, and is cooked in the ſame manner.

The eggs are not bigger than thoſe of a lark; in other reſpects they are very like thoſe of the Snipe.





KNOT,

KNUTE, OR KNOUT.

(*Tringa Canutus*, Lin.—*Le Canut*, Buff.)

THESE birds, like others of the ſame genus, differ conſiderably from each other in their appearance, in different ſeaſons of the year, as well as from age and ſex. The ſpecimen from which the above drawing was taken, meaſured from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, eight inches and a half, the extended wings about fifteen, and it weighed two ounces eight drachms: the bill was one inch and three-eighths long, black at the tip, and duſky, fading into orange towards the baſe; tongue of nearly the ſame length, ſharp and horny at the point; ſides of the head, neck, and breaſt, cinereous, edged with aſh-coloured grey; the chin white,

and a ſtroke of the ſame colour paſſed over each eye. All the upper parts of the plumage were dark-iſh brown, but more deep and gloſſy on the crown of the head, back and ſcapulars, and each feather was edged with aſh or grey: the under parts were a cream-coloured white, ſtreaked or ſpotted with brown on the ſides and vent: the greater coverts of the wings, tipped with white, which formed a bar acroſs them when extended: the legs reddiſh yellow, and ſhort, not meaſuring more than two inches and one-eighth from the middle toe nail to the knee; the thighs feathered very nearly to the knee; toes divided without any connecting membrane.

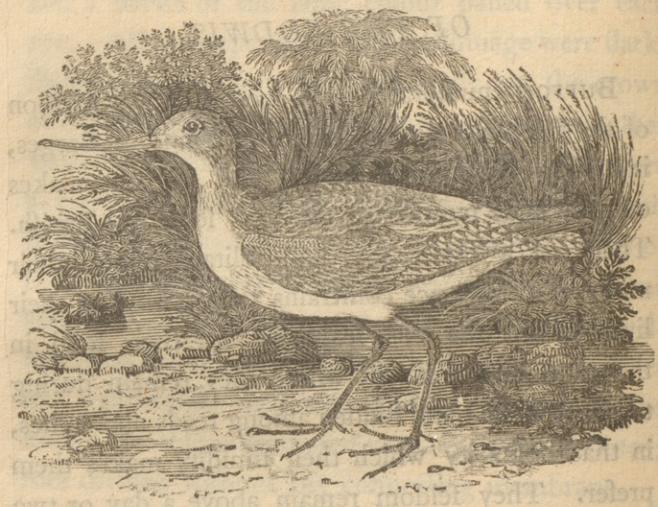
This bird is caught in Lincolnſhire and the other fenny counties, in great numbers, * by nets, into which it is decoyed by carved wooden figures, painted to repreſent itſelf, and placed within them, much in the ſame way as the Ruff. It is alſo fattened for ſale, and eſteemed by many equal to the Ruff in the delicacy of its flavour. The ſeaſon for taking it is from Auguſt to November, after which the froſt compels it to diſappear.

This bird is ſaid to have been a favourite diſh with Canute, king of England; and Camden obſerves, that its name is derived from his—Knute, or Knout, as he was called, which, in proceſs of time, has been changed to Knot.

* Pennant ſays fourteen dozen have been taken at once.

OF THE GODWIT.

Buffon enumerates eight ſpecies of this diviſion of the Scolopax genus, under the name of Barges, including the foreign kinds; and Latham makes out the ſame number of different ſorts, all Britiſh. They are a timid, ſhy, and ſolitary tribe; their mode of ſubſiſtence conſtrains them to ſpend their lives amidſt the fens, ſearching for their food in the mud and wet ſoil, where they remain during the day, ſhaded and hidden among reeds and ruſhes, in that obſcurity which their timidity makes them prefer. They ſeldom remain above a day or two in the ſame place, and it often happens that in the morning not one is to be found in thoſe marſhes where they were numerous the evening before. They remove in a flock in the night, and, when there is moonlight, may be ſeen and heard paſſing at a vaſt height. Their bills are long and ſlender, and, like the common Snipe's, are ſmooth and blunt at the tip: their legs are of various colours, and long. When purſued by the ſportſman, they run with great ſpeed, are very reſtleſs, ſpring at a great diſtance, and make a ſcream as they riſe. Their voice is ſomewhat extraordinary, and has been compared to the ſmothered bleating of a goat. They delight in ſalt marſhes, and are rare in countries remote from the ſea. Their fleſh is delicate and excellent food.



GODWIT.

COMMON GODWIT, GODWYN, YARWHELP, OR YARWIP.

(*Scolopax ægocephala*, Lin.—*La grande Barge grise*, Buff.)

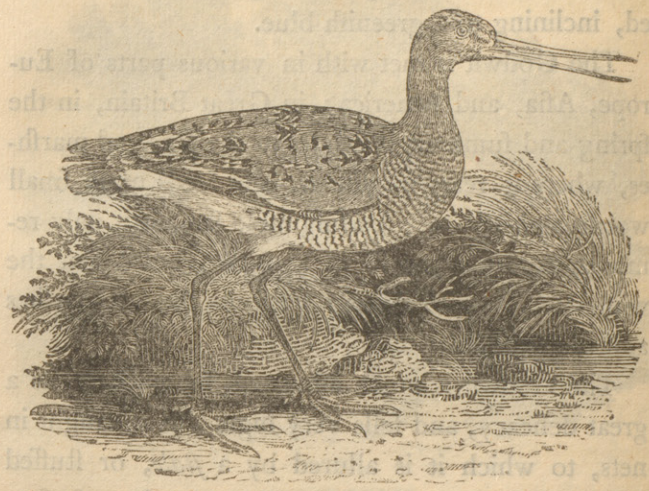
THE weight of this bird is about twelve ounces; length about ſixteen inches: the bill is four inches long, and bent a little upwards, black at the point, gradually ſoftening into a pale purple towards the baſe; a whitiſh ſtreak paſſes from the bill over each eye: the head, neck, back, ſcapulars, and coverts, are of a dingy reddiſh pale brown, each feather marked down the middle with a dark ſpot. The fore part of the breaſt is ſtreaked with black; the belly, vent, and tail are white, the latter regularly barred with black: the webs of the firſt ſix quill feathers are black, edged on the interior ſides with

reddiſh brown: the legs are in general dark coloured, inclining to a greeniſh blue.

The Godwit is met with in various parts of Europe, Aſia, and America: in Great Britain, in the ſpring and ſummer, it reſides in the fens and marſhes, where it rears its young, and feeds upon ſmall worms and inſects. During theſe ſeaſons it only removes from one marſh to another; but when the winter ſets in with ſeverity, it ſeeks the ſalt marſhes and the ſea-ſhore.

The Godwit is much eſteemed, by epicures, as a great delicacy, and ſells very high. It is caught in nets, to which it is allured by a *ſtale*, or ſtuffed bird, in the ſame manner, and in the ſame ſeaſon, as the Ruffs and Reeves.





RED GODWIT,

OR, RED-BREASTED GODWIT.

(*Scolopax Lapponica*, Lin.—*La Barge Rouſſe*, Buff.)

THIS bird exceeds the Common Godwit in ſize, and is diſtinguiſhed from it by the redneſs of its plumage; in other reſpects its general appearance and manner of living are nearly the ſame. It meaſures eighteen inches in length, and weighs about twelve ounces. The bill is nearly four inches long, ſlightly turned upwards, dark at the tip, and of a dull yellowiſh red towards the baſe. The predominant colour of the head, upper part of the ſhoulders, breaſt and ſides, is a bright ferruginous, or ruſty red; ſtreaked on the head with brown, and

on the breaſt and ſides barred or marbled with duſky, cinereous, and white; the neck plain dull ruſty red. The back, ſcapulars, greater and leſſer coverts, are aſh-coloured brown; on the former two, ſome of the feathers are barred and ſtreaked with black and ruſt colour, and edged with pale reddiſh white. The rump is white; the middle of the belly, and the vent, the ſame, ſlightly ſpotted with brown: a bar of white is formed acroſs each wing by the tips of the greater coverts. The exterior webs, and tips of the primary quills, are of a dark brown colour, and the interior webs are white towards their baſe. In ſome ſpecimens the tail is barred with black, or dark brown, upon a pale rufous ground; in others it is plain dark brown, with light tips and edges. The legs are duſky, and bare a long ſpace above the knees.

Mr Pennant, in his Arctic Zoology, ſays, "theſe birds are found in the north of Europe, and about the Caſpian Sea, but never in Siberia, or any part of Northern Aſia." According to Latham, they are plentiful in the fens about Hudſon's Bay, in America. They are not very common in Great Britain. It is praiſed by thoſe who have eaten it as a very well taſted and delicious bird.

There is reaſon to ſuppoſe that Buffon has deſcribed the male and female Red Godwits as two diſtinct ſpecies. In his Planches Enluminees, the *Barge Rouſſe* is the female, and the *Grande Barge*

Rouſſe, the male, Red Godwit. The colours are the ſame in both, but the feathers of the female are not ſo variegated, clouded and barred, being of a more uniform rufous, or ruſt colour, on the head, neck, breaſt, and belly, and on the upper parts of a more plain brown. His deſcriptions agree with the foregoing, except that the tail of his Grande Barge Rouſſe is plain brown, and that of the ſpecimen from which the above drawing was made, is barred with ruſt colour.

The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a bird in full plumage, ſent to the author by the Rev. J. Davies, ſenior fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to whom he is indebted for moſt of the fen birds.



CINEREOUS GODWIT.

THIS ſpecies, as well as ſeveral others of the ſame genus, ſeems to be very imperfectly known, or aſcertained: the ſlight ſhades of difference in their ſize and plumage, probably occaſioned only by age or ſex, there is cauſe to ſuſpect may have led nomenclators, in their over anxiety to add new ſpecies to their numbers, into errors; but, however this may be, the author will leave the matter as it ſtands at preſent, to be elucidated by ſportsmen and ornithologiſts; and as he has never ſeen this or the three following kinds, he preſents only the deſcriptions of others. Latham ſays it is the "ſize of the Greenſhank. Bill two inches and a half long, but thicker than in that bird: the head, neck, and back variegated with aſh-colour and white: tail ſlightly barred with cinereous: throat and breaſt white; the laſt marked with a few aſh-coloured ſpots: legs long, ſlender, and aſh-coloured." He mentions one as having been ſhot near Spalding, in Lincolnſhire. Pennant ſays "it is about the ſize of the Greenſhank, which it nearly reſembles in its colours, but the bill is ſo much thicker, as to form a ſpecific diſtinction."



CAMBRIDGE GODWIT.

"LARGER than the Common Redſhank. Head, upper part of the neck, and back, cinereous brown: leſſer wing coverts brown, edged with dull white, and barred with black: primaries duſky, whitiſh on their inner ſides: ſecondaries barred, duſky and white: underſide of the neck and breaſt, dirty white: belly and vent, white: tail barred, cinereous and black: legs orange: ſhot near Cambridge" *Latham.*



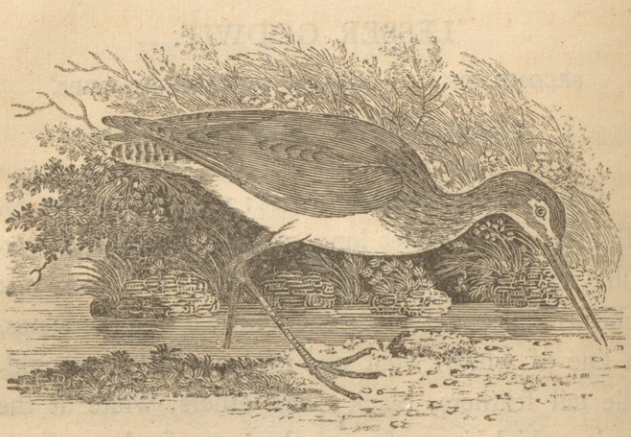
LESSER GODWIT.

SECOND SORT OF GODWIT, OR JADREKA SNIPE.

(*Scolopax limoſa*, Lin.—*La Barge*, Buff.)

"LENGTH ſeventeen inches: weight nine ounces. Bill near four inches long, duſky, the baſe yellowiſh: irides white: the head and neck are cinereous: cheeks and chin white: back, brown: on the wings, a line of white: vent and rump, white: two middle tail feathers, black; the others, white at the ends, which increaſes on the outer feathers, ſo as the exterior ones are white for nearly the whole length: legs, duſky. This inhabits Iceland, Greenland, and Sweden. Migrates in flocks in the ſouth of Ruſſia. Seen about Lake Baikal: and is ſaid alſo to have been met with in England." *Letham.*





GREENSHANK.

GREEN-SHANKED GODWIT, OR GREEN-LEGGED HORSEMAN.

(*Scolopax glottis*, Lin.—*La Barge variée*, Buff.)

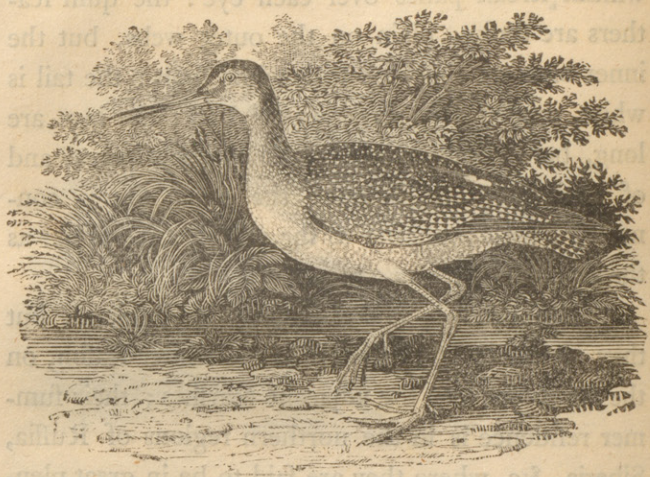
THE Greenſhank is of a ſlender and elegant ſhape, and its weight ſmall in proportion to its length and dimenſions, being only about ſix ounces, although it meaſures from the tip of its beak to the end of its tail fourteen inches, and to the toes twenty; and from tip to tip of the wings, twenty-five. The bill is about two inches and a half long, ſtrait and ſlender, the upper mandible black, the under reddiſh at its baſe. The upper parts of its plumage are pale browniſh aſh-colour, but each feather is marked down the ſhaft with a gloſſy bronze brown; the under parts, and rump, are of a pure white: a

whitiſh ſtreak paſſes over each eye: the quill feathers are duſky, plain on the outer webs, but the inner ones are ſpeckled with white ſpots: the tail is white, croſſed with dark waved bars: the legs are long, bare about two inches above the knees, and of a dark green colour: the outer toe is connected by a membrane to the middle one as far as the firſt joint.

This ſpecies is not numerous in England, but they appear in ſmall flocks, in the winter ſeaſon, on the ſea-ſhores and the adjacent marſhes; their ſummer reſidence is in the northern regions of Ruſſia, Siberia, &c. where they are ſaid to be in great plenty; they are alſo met with in various parts of both Aſia and America. Their fleſh, like all the reſt of this genus, is well-flavoured, and eſteemed good eating.

The above figure and deſcription were taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum.





SPOTTED REDSHANK.

RED-LEGGED GODWIT, SPOTTED SNIPE, OR BARKER.

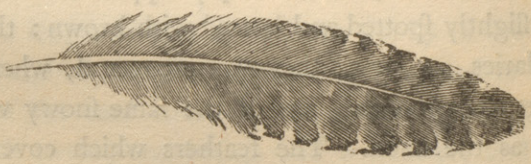
(*Scolopax Totanus*, Lin.—*Le Chevalier rouge*, Buff.)

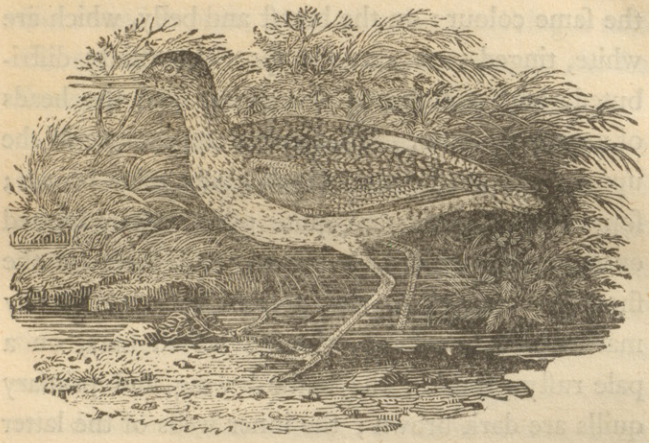
THE length of this bird, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, is twelve inches, and to the end of the toes fourteen inches and a half; its breadth twenty-one inches and a quarter, and its weight about five ounces two drachms, avoirdupoiſe. The bill is ſlender, meaſures two inches and a half from the corners of the mouth to the tip, and is, for half its length, neareſt the baſe, red; the other part black: irides hazel: the head, neck, breaſt, and belly are ſpotted in ſtreaks, mottled and barred with dingy aſh-brown and dull white, darker on the crown and hinder part of the neck: the throat

is white, and lines of the ſame colour paſs from the upper ſides of the beak over each eye, from the corners of which two brown ones are extended to the noſtrils: the ground colour of the ſhoulders, ſcapulars, leſſer coverts, and tail, is a gloſſy olive brown,—the feathers on all theſe parts are indented on the edges, more or leſs, with triangular-ſhaped white ſpots. The back is white; the rump barred with waved lines of aſh-coloured brown, and dingy white: the vent feathers are marked nearly in the ſame manner, but with a greater portion of white: the tail and coverts are alſo barred with narrow waved lines, of a dull aſh-colour, and, in ſome ſpecimens, are nearly black and white. Five of the primary quills are dark brown, tinged with olive; the ſhaft of the firſt quill is white; the next ſix are, in the male, rather deeply tipped with white, and ſlightly ſpotted and barred with brown: the ſecondaries, as far as they are uncovered, when the wings are extended, are of the ſame ſnowy whiteneſs as the back. The feathers which cover the upper part of the thighs, and thoſe near them, are bluſhed with a reddiſh or vinous colour: the legs are of a deep orange red, and meaſure, from the end of the middle toe nail to the upper bare part of the thigh, five inches and a half.

A ſtuffed ſpecimen of this elegant-looking bird, from which the figure and deſcription were taken, was the gift of Mr Rediough, of Ormskirk: ano-

ther of theſe birds, in perfect plumage, was ſhot by Mr John Bell, of Alemouth, merchant, in September, 1801; it differed from the former in being more ſparingly ſpotted with white on the upper parts, and in its breaſt, belly, and the inſide of the wings, being of a ſnowy whiteneſs, and its ſides, under the wings, more delicately ſpotted with pale brown.





REDSHANK.

RED-LEGGED HORSEMAN, POOL SNIPE, OR SAND COCK.

(*Scolopax Calidris*, Lin.—*Le Chevalier aux Pieds Rouges*, Buff.)

THIS bird weighs about five ounces and a half: its length is twelve inches, and the breadth twenty-one. The bill, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, is more than an inch and three-quarters long, black at the point, and red towards the baſe: the feathers on the crown of the head are dark brown, edged with pale rufous; a light or whitiſh line paſſes over, and encircles each eye, from the corners of which a dark brown ſpot is extended to the beak: irides hazel: the hinder part of the neck is obſcurely ſpotted with dark brown, on a ruſty aſh-coloured ground; the throat and fore part are

more diſtinctly marked or ſtreaked with ſpots of the ſame colour: on the breaſt and belly, which are white, tinged with aſh, the ſpots are thinly diſtributed, and are ſhaped ſomething like the heads of arrows or darts. The general appearance of the upper parts of the plumage is gloſſy olive brown; ſome of the feathers are quite plain, others ſpotted on the edges with dark brown, and thoſe on the ſhoulders, ſcapulars, and tertials are tranſverſely marked with the ſame coloured waved bars, on a pale ruſty ground: the baſtard wing and primary quills are dark brown; the inner webs of the latter are deeply edged with white, freckled with brown, and ſome of thoſe quills next the ſecondaries are elegantly marked, near their tips, with narrow brown lines, pointed and ſhaped to the form of each feather: ſome of the ſecondaries are barred in nearly the ſame manner, others are white: back white: the tail feathers and coverts are beautifully marked with alternate bars of duſky and white, the middle ones ſlightly tinged with ruſt colour: legs red, and meaſure from the end of the toes to the upper bare part of the thigh, four inches and a half.

This ſpecies is of a ſolitary character, being moſtly ſeen alone, or in pairs only. It reſides the greater part of the year in the fen countries, in the wet and marſhy grounds, where it breeds and rears its young. It lays four eggs, whiteiſh, tinged with olive, and marked with irregular ſpots of black, chiefly

on the thicker end. Pennant and Latham ſay, "it flies round its neſt, when diſturbed, making a noiſe like a Lapwing." It is not ſo common on the ſea-ſhores as ſeveral others of its kindred ſpecies.

Ornithologiſts differ much in their deſcriptions of the Redſhank, and probably have confounded it with others of the red-legged tribe, whoſe proper names are yet wanting, or involved in doubt and uncertainty. Latham, in his ſupplement, deſcribes this bird as differing ſo much in its ſummer and winter dreſs, and in its weight, as to appear to be of two diſtinct ſpecies. There is reaſon to believe that ſeveral ſpecies of the Scolopax and Tringa genera which have not yet been taken into the liſt of Britiſh birds, appear occaſionally in Great Britain, and that this circumſtance, together with the difference of age and ſex, has occaſioned much confuſion. The figure and deſcription of this pretty bird were taken from a ſpecimen ſent by the Rev. J. Davies, of Trinity College, Cambridge: on comparing it with that figured in the Planches Enluminées, under the title of Le Chevalier rayé, and the ſtriated Sandpiper of Pennant and Latham, the difference was ſo ſlight, that there is no doubt of its being the ſame ſpecies.



OF THE SANDPIPER.

THE tongue is ſlender; toes divided, or very ſlightly connected at the baſe by a membrane; hinder toe weak: their bills are nearly of the ſame form as thoſe of the preceding ſpecies, but ſhorter: their haunts and manner of life are alſo very ſimilar. Latham has enumerated thirty-ſeven ſpecies and nine varieties of this genus, ſeventeen of which are Britiſh, excluſive of thoſe which in this work are placed among the Plovers; but the hiſtory and claſſification of this genus are involved in much uncertainty.





RUFF.

(*Tringa Pugnax*, Lin.—*Le Combattant*, Buff.)

THE male of this curious ſpecies is called the Ruff, and the female the Reeve: they differ materially in their exterior appearance; and alſo, what is remarkable in wild birds, it very rarely happens that two Ruffs are alike in the colours of their plumage. * The ſingular, wide-ſpreading, variegated tuft of feathers which, in the breeding ſeaſon, grows out of their necks, is different in all. This tuft or ruff, a portion of which ſtands up like ears behind each eye, is in ſome black,

* Buffon ſays, that Klien compared above a hundred Ruffs together, and found only two that were ſimilar.

in others black and yellow, and in others again white, ruſt colour, or barred with gloſſy violet, black and white. They are, however, more nearly alike in other reſpects: they meaſure about a foot in length, and two in breadth, and, when firſt taken, weigh about ſeven ounces and an half; the female ſeldom exceeds four. The bill is more than an inch long, black at the tip, and reddiſh yellow towards the baſe; the irides are hazel: the whole face is covered with reddiſh tubercles, or pimples: the wing coverts are browniſh aſh-colour: the upper parts and the breaſt are generally marked with tranſverſe bars, and the ſcapulars with roundiſh-ſhaped gloſſy black ſpots, on a ruſty-coloured ground: quills duſky: belly, vent, and tail coverts white: the tail is brown, the four middle feathers of it are barred with black: the legs are yellow. The male does not acquire the ornament of his neck till the ſecond ſeaſon, and, before that time, is not eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the female, except by being larger. After moulting, at the end of June, he looſes his ruff and the red tubercles on his face, and from that time until the ſpring of the year, he again, in plumage, looks like his mate.

Theſe birds leave Great Britain in the winter, and are then ſuppoſed to aſſociate with others of the Tringa genus, among which they are no longer recognized as the Ruff and Reeve. In the ſpring, as ſoon as they arrive again in England, and take

up their abode in the fens where they were bred, each of the males (of which there appears to be a much greater number than of females) immediately fixes upon a particular dry or graſſy ſpot in the marſh, about which he runs round and round, until it is trodden bare: to this ſpot it appears he wiſhes to invite the female, and waits in expectation of her taking a joint poſſeſſion, and becoming an inmate. As ſoon as a ſingle female arrives, and is heard or obſerved by the males, her feeble cry ſeems as if it rouſed them all to war, for they inſtantly begin to fight, and their combats are deſcribed as being both deſperate and of long continuance: at the end of the battle ſhe becomes the prize of the victor. * It is at the time of theſe battles that they are caught in the greateſt numbers in the nets of the fowlers, who watch for that opportunity: they are alſo, at other times, caught by clap, or day nets, † and are drawn together by means of

* Buffon ſays, "they not only contend with each other in ſingle rencounter, but they advance to combat in marſhalled ranks."

† Theſe nets, which are about fourteen yards long, and four broad, are fixed by the fowler over night: at day-break in the morning he reſorts to his ſtand, at a few hundred yards diſtance from the place, and at a fit opportunity pulls his cord, which cauſes his net to fall over and ſecure the prize. Mr Pennant ſays, an old fowler told him he once caught forty-four birds at one haul, and, in all, ſix dozen that morning: he alſo adds, that a fowler will take forty or fifty dozen in a ſeaſon. The females are always ſet at liberty.

a ſtuffed Reeve, or what is called a *ſtale bird*, which is placed in ſome ſuitable ſpot for that purpoſe.

The Ruff is highly eſteemed as a moſt delicious diſh, and is ſought after with great eagerneſs by the fowlers who live by catching them and other fen birds, for the markets of the metropolis, &c. Before they are offered for ſale, they are commonly put up to feed for about a fortnight, and are during that time fed with boiled wheat, and bread and milk mixed with hempſeed, to which ſugar is ſometimes added: by this mode of treatment they become very fat, and are often ſold as high as two ſhillings and ſixpence each. * They are cooked in the ſame manner as the Woodcock.

The female, in the beginning of May, makes her neſt in a dry tuft of graſs, in the fens, and lays four white eggs, marked with ruſty ſpots.

Theſe birds are common in the ſummer ſeaſon in the fens of Denmark, Sweden, and Ruſſia, and are alſo found in other more northern regions, even as far as Iceland.

* In a note communicated by the late George Allan, Eſq. of the Grange, near Darlington, he ſays, "I dined at the George Inn, Coney-ſtreet, York, Auguſt 18, 1794, (the race week) where four Ruffs made one of the diſhes at the table, which, in the bill, were ſeparately charged ſixteen ſhillings."



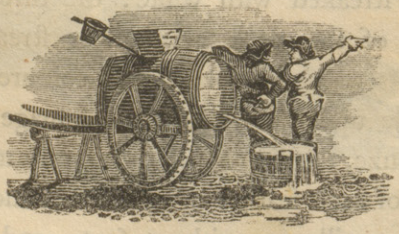
SHORE SANDPIPER.

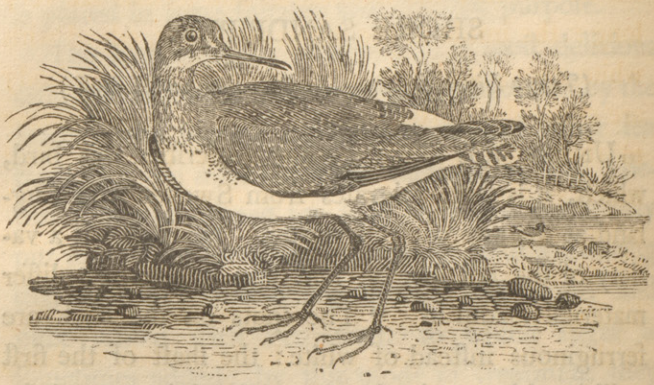
(*Tringa Littorea*, Lin.—*Le Chevalier varié*, Buff.)

UNDER this name Latham deſcribes this bird, which, it is ſaid, migrates from Sweden into England at the approach of winter. He makes it a variety of the laſt ſpecies, and ſays it does not differ materially from it. "The ſpots on the back are ferruginous inſtead of white: the ſhaft of the firſt quill is white, as in the Green Sandpiper; and the ſecondaries have white tips: * the legs are brown." Brunnich mentions a further variety, wherein the firſt quill has a black ſhaft, and the ſpots on the back and wings are leſs; and obſerves, that they differ in age and ſex. †

* Theſe are marks ſo common to many of this genus, that they cannot be conſidered as a feature ſufficient to diſtinguiſh any particular ſpecies.

† Buffon's figure in the Planches Enluminées differs from this deſcription.





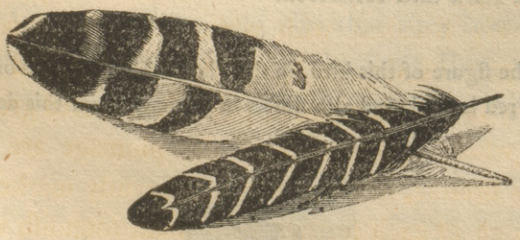
GREEN SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa Ochropus*, Lin.—*Le Becaſſeau, ou Cul-blanc*, Buff.)

THIS bird meaſures about ten inches in length, to the end of the toes nearly twelve, and weighs about three ounces and a half: the bill is black, and an inch and a half long: a pale ſtreak extends from it over each eye; between which and the corners of the mouth, there is a duſky patch. The crown of the head and hinder part of the neck are of a dingy browniſh aſh-colour, in ſome ſpecimens narrowly ſtreaked with white: the throat white: fore part of the neck mottled or ſtreaked with brown ſpots, on a white or pale aſh-coloured ground. The whole upper parts of the plumage are of a gloſſy bronze, or olive brown, elegantly marked on the edge of each feather with ſmall roundiſh white ſpots: the quills are without ſpots, and are of a

darker brown: the ſecondaries and tertials are very long: the inſide of the wings are duſky, edged with white grey; and the inſide coverts next the body are curiouſly barred, from the ſhaft of each feather to their edges, with narrow white lines, formed nearly of the ſhape of two ſides of a triangle. The belly, vent, tail coverts, and tail, are white; the laſt broadly barred with black, the middle feathers having four bars, and thoſe next to them decreaſing in the number of bars towards the outſide feathers, which are quite plain: the legs are green.

This bird is not any where numerous, and is of a ſolitary diſpoſition, ſeldom more than a pair being ſeen together, and that chiefly in the breeding ſeaſon. It is a ſcarce bird in England, but is ſaid to be more common in the northern parts of the globe, even as far as Iceland. It is reported that they never frequent the ſea-ſhores, but their places of abode are commonly on the margins of the lakes in the interior and mountainous parts of the country.



GAMBET.

(*Tringa gambetta*, Lin.—*La Gambette*, Buff.)

THIS is the Chevalier Rouge of Briſſon, and the Red-legged Horſeman of Albin. For want of a ſpecimen of this bird, the following deſcription is borrowed from Latham:—

"Size of the Greenſhank: length twelve inches. Bill of a reddiſh colour, with a black tip: the irides yellowiſh green: head, back, and breaſt cinereous brown, ſpotted with dull yellow: wing coverts and ſcapulars cinereous, edged with dull yellow: prime quills duſky; ſhaft of the firſt white: tail duſky, bordered with yellow: legs yellow.* This inhabits England, but is not common: has been ſhot on the coaſt of Lincolnſhire. Known in France; but is there a rare bird. Has a note not unlike the whiſtle of a Woodcock; and the fleſh is eſteemed. Inhabits Scandinavia and Iceland; called in the laſt *Stelkr*. It has alſo been taken in the frozen ſea between Aſia and America."

* The figure of this bird, in the Planches Enluminées of Buffon, is red legged, and alſo differs in plumage from this deſcription.



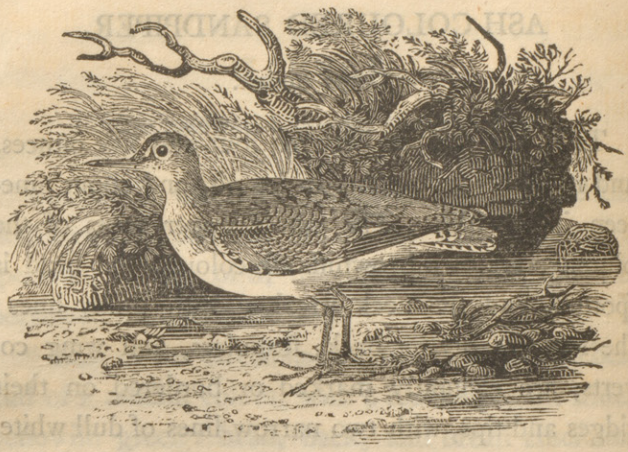
ASH-COLOURED SANDPIPER.

Tringa Cinerea.

This bird weighs between four and five ounces, and meaſures ten inches in length, and about nineteen in breadth. The whole upper parts of the plumage are of a browniſh aſh-colour: the head is ſpotted, and the neck ſtreaked with duſky lines: the feathers of the back, ſcapulars, and wing coverts, are elegantly marked or bordered on their ridges and tips, with two narrow lines of dull white, and dark brown. Some ſpecimens have black ſpots on the breaſt, but moſt commonly the whole under parts are pure white: the tail is cinereous, edged with white, and its coverts are barred with black: legs dirty green; toes edged with a fine narrow ſcallopped membrane.

The Aſh-coloured Sandpiper, it is ſaid, breeds in the northern parts of both Europe and America. Pennant ſays they appear in vaſt flocks on the ſhores of Flintſhire in the winter ſeaſon; and Latham, that they are ſeen in vaſt numbers on the Seal-Iſlands, near Chateaux Bay; and alſo that they breed and remain the whole ſummer at Hudſon's Bay, where they are called by the natives *Saſqua piſqua niſhiſh.*





COMMON SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa hypoleucos*, Lin.—*La Guignette*, Buff.)

THIS bird weighs about two ounces, and meaſures ſeven inches and a half in length. The bill is about an inch long, black at the tip, fading into pale brown towards the baſe. The head, and hinder part of the neck, are browniſh aſh, ſtreaked downwards with dark narrow lines: the throat is white, and a ſtreak of the ſame colour ſurrounds and is extended over each eye: the cheeks and auriculars are ſtreaked with brown: the fore part of the neck to the breaſt is white, mottled and ſtreaked with ſpots and lines of a brown colour, pointing downwards: in ſome the breaſt is plain white: belly and vent white. The ground colour of all the upper parts of the plumage is aſh, blended with gloſſy

olive bronze brown: the coverts, ſcapulars, lower part of the back and tail coverts, are edged with dull white, and moſt elegantly marked with tranſverſe dark-coloured narrow waved lines: the firſt two quills are plain brown; the next nine are marked on the middle of their inner webs, with white ſpots; the ſecondaries are alſo marked in the ſame manner, on both webs, and tipped with white. The tail conſiſts of twelve feathers: the four middle ones are of an olive brown, dark at the tips; thoſe next to them, on each ſide, are much lighter coloured, mottled with dark brown, and tipped with white; the two outſide ones are edged and tipped in the ſame manner, but are barred on their webs with dark brown: legs pale dull green, faintly bluſhed with red.

This deſcription was taken from a perfect bird, the preſent of the right honourable Lord Charles Aynſley, of Little-Harle Tower, Northumberland, in May, 1798. By comparing it with other birds, and other deſcriptions, (no doubt taken with equal accuracy) the truth of the obſervation ſo often made, that two birds even of the ſame ſpecies, are very ſeldom exactly alike, will be proved.

This elegant little bird breeds in this country, but the ſpecies is not numerous, yet they are frequently ſeen in pairs during the ſummer months; and are well known by their clear piping note, by their flight, by jerking up their tails, and by their manner of run-

ning after their inſect prey on the pebbly margins of brooks and rivers. The female makes her neſt in a hole on the ground near their haunts; her eggs, commonly five in number, are much mottled and marked with dark ſpots, on a yellowiſh ground. They leave England in the autumn, but whither they go is not particularly noticed by ornithologiſts. Buffon ſays they retire far north; and Pennant and Latham that they are met with in Siberia and Kamtſchatca, and are alſo not uncommon in North America.



BROWN SANDPIPER.

Fuſca.

PENNANT deſcribes this bird, which, he ſays, was bought in the London market, and preſerved in the collection of the late M. Tunſtall, Eſq. of Wycliffe:—"Size of a Jackſnipe: the bill is black: the head, upper part of the neck, and back, are of a pale brown, ſpotted with black: coverts of the wings duſky, edged with dirty white: underſide of the neck white, ſtreaked with black: the belly white: tail cinereous: legs black."

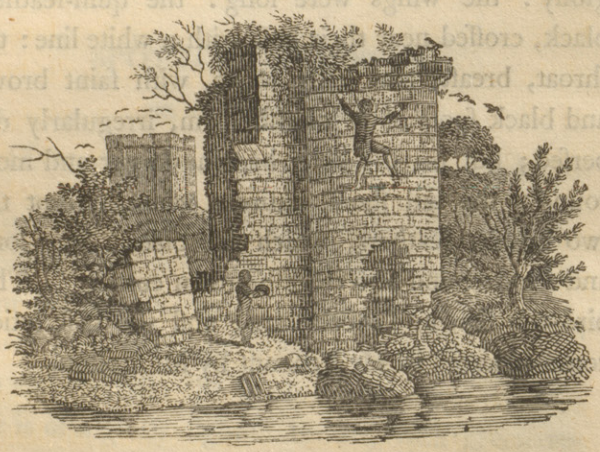


GREENWICH SANDPIPER.

Grenovicenſis.

" SIZE of the Redſhank: weight nearly eight ounces: length twelve inches and a half. Bill an inch and a half long, black: crown of the head reddiſh brown, ſtreaked with black: nape, cheeks, and neck, aſh-colour; the middle of the feathers duſky down the ſhaft: lower part of the neck and back black; the feathers margined on the ſides with pale ferruginous, and ſome of thoſe of the back at the tips alſo: chin nearly white: fore part of the neck very pale aſh-colour, as far as the breaſt, which is of a duſky white: belly, ſides, vent, and upper tail coverts on each ſide, and the whole of the under ones, white: leſſer wing coverts aſh-colour; the greater, the ſame, obſcurely margined with pale ferruginous; greateſt tipped with white; under wing coverts pure white: prime quills duſky, the ſhafts more or leſs white; ſecondaries and ſcapulars nearly the colour of the back; the ſecondaries and primaries very little differing in length: the lower part of the back, rump, and middle of the tail coverts, aſh-colour: tail a little rounded at the end, browniſh aſh-colour, ſomewhat mottled with browniſh near the tips, and fringed near to the end with pale ferruginous: legs duſky olive green, bare an inch above the knee: the outer and

middle toe connected at the base." The bird from which the above description was taken, was shot by Dr Leith, at Greenwich, on the 5th of August, 1785, and sent to Mr Latham, who considered it as a new species.

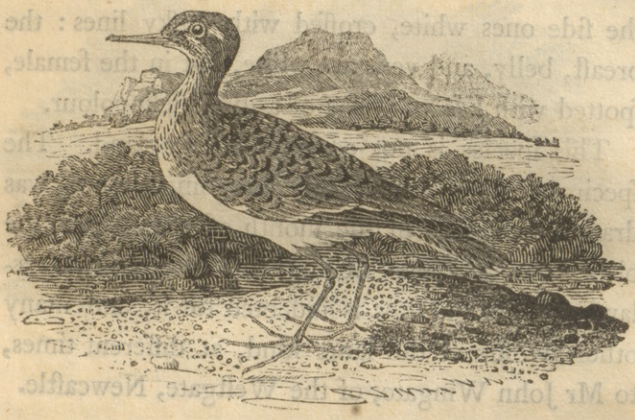


BLACK SANDPIPER.

Leucura.

" SIZE of a Thruſh: the beak ſhort, blunt at the point, and duſky: noſtrils black: the irides yellow: the head ſmall, and flatted at the top: the colour white, moſt elegantly ſpotted with grey: the neck, ſhoulders, and back mottled in the ſame manner, but darker, being tinged with brown; in ſome lights theſe parts appeared of a perfect black, and gloſſy: the wings were long: the quill-feathers black, croſſed near their baſe with a white line: the throat, breaſt, and belly white, with faint brown and black ſpots of a longiſh form, irregularly diſperſed; but on the belly become larger and more round: the tail ſhort, entirely white, except the two middle feathers, which are black: legs long and ſlender, and of a reddiſh brown colour." This bird was ſhot in Lincolnſhire; and the deſcription communicated to Mr Pennant by Mr Bolton.





SPOTTED SANDPIPER,

OR SPOTTED TRINGA.

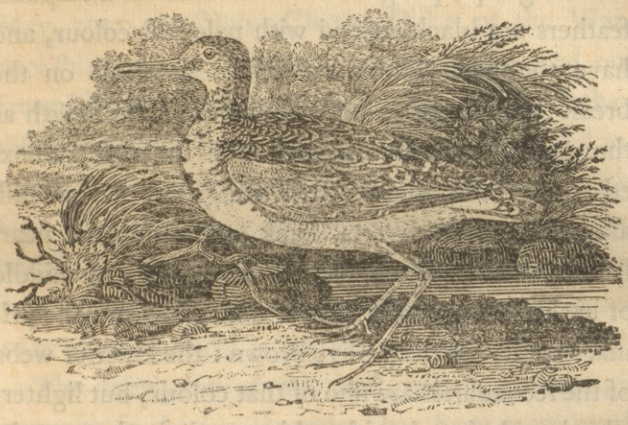
(*Tringa macularia*, Lin.—*La Grive d'eau*, Buff.)

THIS bird meaſures about eight inches in length: the bill is black at the tip, and fades into a reddiſh colour towards the baſe; a white ſtreak is extended over each eye, and a browniſh patch between them and the bill: the whole upper part of the plumage is of a gloſſy lightiſh brown, with green reflections: the head and neck are marked with longiſh ſmall dark ſpots: on the back, ſcapulars, and wing coverts the ſpots are larger, and of a triangular ſhape: the rump is plain: the greater quills are duſky; ſecondaries tipped with white; as are alſo the greater and leſſer coverts, which form two oblique white lines acroſs the extended wings: the

two middle feathers of the tail are greeniſh brown; the ſide ones white, croſſed with duſky lines: the breaſt, belly, and vent are white, but in the female, ſpotted with brown: legs of a dirty fleſh-colour.

This ſpecies is not common in England. The ſpecimen from which the foregoing figure was drawn, was ſhot in the month of Auguſt, on the bleak moors above Bellingham, in Northumberland; and the author is indebted for it, and many other favours of the ſame kind, at different times, to Mr John Wingate, of the Weſtgate, Newcaſtle.





RED-LEGGED SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa Erythropus.*)

THIS bird meaſures from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, ten inches: the bill is an inch and three-eighths long, black at the tip, and reddiſh towards the baſe: the crown of the head is ſpotted with dark brown, diſpoſed in ſtreaks, and edged with pale brown and grey: a darkiſh patch covers the ſpace between the corners of the mouth and the eyes: the chin is white; the brow and cheeks pale brown, prettily freckled with ſmall dark ſpots: the hinder part of the neck is compoſed of a mixture of pale brown, grey and aſh, with a few indiſtinct duſky ſpots; the fore part, and the breaſt, are white, clouded with a dull cinnamon colour, and ſparingly and irregularly marked with black ſpots,

reflecting a purple gloſs: the ſhoulder and ſcapular feathers are black, edged with pale ruſt colour, and have the ſame gloſſy reflections as thoſe on the breaſt: the tertials are nearly of the ſame length as the quills, and are marked like the firſt annexed figure: the ridges of the wings are a browniſh aſh-colour; the coverts, back, and rump are nearly the ſame, but inclining to olive, and the middle of each feather is of a deeper duſky brown: the primary quills are deep olive brown: the exterior webs of the ſecondaries are alſo of that colour, but lighter, edged and tipped with white, and the inner webs are moſtly white towards the baſe: the tail coverts are gloſſy black, edged with pale ruſt colour, and tipped with white; but in ſome of them a ſtreak of white paſſes from the middle upwards, nearly the whole length, as in the ſecond figure. The tail feathers are lightiſh brown, except the two middle ones, which are barred with ſpots of a darker hue: the belly and vent are white: legs bare above the knees, and red as ſealing-wax: claws black. The female is leſs than the male, and her plumage more dingy and indiſtinct: an egg taken out of her previous to ſtuffing, was ſurpriſingly large, conſidering her bulk, being about the ſize of that of a magpie, of a greeniſh white colour, ſpotted and blotched with brown, of a long ſhape, and pointed at the ſmaller end.

The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a pair, male and female, which were ſhot on

Rippengale fen, in Lincolnſhire, on the 14th of May, 1799, by Major Charles Dilke, of the Warwickſhire cavalry, who alſo obligingly pointed out ſeveral leading features of theſe birds, in which they differ materially from the Scolopax Calidris of Linnæus, called here the Redſhank or Poolſnipe. He ſays, "this bird is a conſtant inhabitant of the fens, and is known to ſportſmen by its ſingular notes, which are very loud and melodious, and are heard even when the bird is beyond the reach of ſight."

The deſcription of this bird, which, it ſeems, is common in the fen countries, has been more particularly attended to, becauſe it has not been deſcribed in any of the popular works on ornithology; at leaſt, not ſo accurately as to enable a naturaliſt to diſtinguiſh it by the proper name.

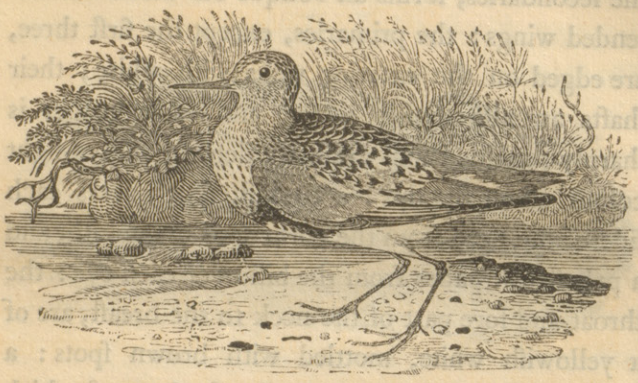


RED SANDPIPER.

ABERDEEN SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa Icelandica*, Lin.)

LATHAM deſcribes this bird in the following manner:—"Length from eight to ten inches: bill brown, one inch and a half long, and a little bent downwards: head, hinder part of the neck, and beginning of the back, duſky, marked with red: fore part of the neck and breaſt cinereous, mixed with ruſt colour, and obſcurely ſpotted with black: leſſer wing coverts cinereous: quills duſky: ſecondaries tipped with white: the two middle tail feathers duſky; the others cinereous: legs long and black." The ſame author mentions another variety, which is called by Pennant the Aberdeen Sandpiper: it has the breaſt reddiſh brown, mixed with duſky: belly and vent white: in other reſpects it is like the Red Sandpiper, of which it is ſuppoſed by Latham to be the female, or a young bird. He adds, "the Red Sandpiper has appeared in great flocks on the coaſts of Eſſex: the Aberdeen, in Scotland. They have alſo been met with on the coaſts of New York, Labrador, and Nootka Sound; and are alſo found in Iceland. In ſummer they frequent the neighbourhood of the Caſpian ſea; and alſo the river Don. It is perpetually running up and down on the ſandy banks, picking up inſects and ſmall worms, on which it feeds."



DUNLIN.

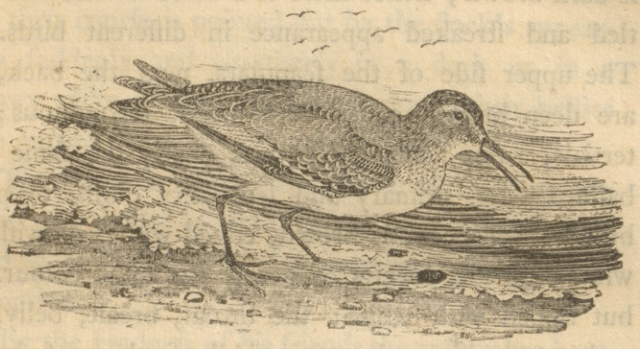
(*Tringa Alpina*, Lin.—*La Brunette*, Buff.)

THIS bird is nearly of the ſize of the Judcock, and its bill is of the ſame ſhape, but much ſhorter in proportion to the bulk: it may alſo be eaſily diſtinguiſhed among its aſſociates, the Purres, Dottrels, Sanderlings, &c. by the redneſs of the upper parts of its plumage; the ground colour of which, from the beak to the rump, is ferruginous, or ruſty red; but the middle of each feather is black, and the edges of ſome of them are narrowly fringed with yellowiſh white, or aſh-coloured grey: in ſome ſpecimens the leſſer wing coverts are dingy aſh-coloured brown, in others they are of a clear brown, edged with ferruginous rather deeply: the quills and greater coverts are dark brown, the latter deeply tipped with white, which, together with the baſes of

the ſecondaries, forms an oblique bar acroſs the extended wings: the primaries, except the firſt three, are edged on the exterior webs with white; their ſhafts are alſo moſtly white, and each feather is ſharply pencilled and diſtinctly defined with a light colour about the tips: a darkiſh ſpot covers each ſide of the head from the corners of the mouth, and a pale ſtreak paſſes from the bill over each eye: the throat and fore part of the neck to the breaſt, are of a yellowiſh white, mottled with brown ſpots: a duſky creſcent-ſhaped patch, the feathers of which are narrowly edged with white, covers the breaſt, the horns pointing towards the thighs: * the belly and vent are white: the middle tail feathers black, edged with ferruginous; the others pale aſh, edged with white: legs and thighs black. The female is rather larger than the male, but in other reſpects reſembles him pretty nearly.

The above deſcription and figure were taken from a pair, ſent by the Rev. C. Rudſton, of Sandhutton, near York, the 22d of April, 1799; and the author has been favoured with numbers of theſe and others of the ſame genus, by the Rev. H. Cotes, vicar of Bedlington; not two of which were exactly alike, probably owing to the difference of age or ſex.

* In ſome ſpecimens, ſuppoſed to be female, this patch was wanting.



PURRE.

(*Tringa Cinclus*, Lin.—*L'Alouette de Mer*, Buff.)

In the north of England theſe birds are called Stints, in other parts, the Leaſt Snipe, Ox-Bird, Ox-Eye, Bull's-Eye, Sea-Lark, and Wagtail: they generally meaſure about ſeven inches and a half in length, and in breadth about fourteen; but ſometimes they weigh and meaſure rather more. The bill is black, grooved on the ſides of the upper mandible, and about an inch and a quarter in length: tongue of nearly the ſame length, ſharp and hard at the point: a whitiſh line runs from the brow over each eye, and a browniſh one from the ſides of the mouth to the eyes, and over the cheeks: the fore part of the neck is pale aſh-colour, mottled with brown: the head, hinder part of the neck, upper part of the back, and ſcapulars, are browniſh aſh-colour, but the middle of the feathers on theſe parts

is dark brown; hence there is a more or leſs mottled and ſtreaked appearance in different birds. The upper ſide of the ſcapulars, next the back, are deep brown, edged with bright ferruginous; tertials, rump, and tail coverts nearly the ſame: baſtard wing, primary and ſecondary quills, deep brown: leſſer coverts brown, edged with yelloviſh white: greater coverts of nearly the ſame colour, but tipped with white: the throat, breaſt, belly, and vent, white: the two middle feathers of the tail are duſky, the reſt aſh-coloured: legs, thighs, and toes black, inclining to green. The female has not the bright ferruginous edged feathers on the upper ſcapulars, and her whole plumage is more uniformly of a browniſh aſh-colour, mixed with grey.

The Purre, with others of the ſame genus, appears in great numbers on the ſea-ſhores, in various parts of Great Britain, during the winter ſeaſon: they run nimbly near the edges of the flowing and retiring waves, and are almoſt perpetually wagging their tails, whilſt they are, at the ſame time buſily employed in picking up their food, which conſiſts chiefly of ſmall worms and inſects. On taking flight, they give a kind of ſcream, and ſkim along near the ſurface of the water with great rapidity, as well as with great regularity; they do not fly directly forward, but perform their evolutions in large ſemicircles, alternately in their ſweep ap-

proaching the ſhore and the ſea, and the curvature of their courſe is pointed out by the flock's appearing ſuddenly and alternately in a dark or in a ſnowy white colour, as their backs or their bellies are turned to or from the ſpectator. *

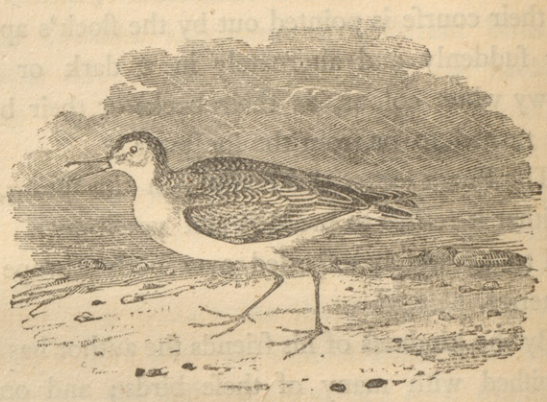
The Purre leaves this country in the ſpring, but whither it retires to breed is not yet known. It is ſaid to be widely diſperſed over both Europe and America.

By the kindneſs of his friends the author has been furniſhed with many of theſe birds; and on the moſt minute inſpection, as has before been noticed in reſpect of others of this genus, they all differed in a greater or leſs degree from each other. †

* It is ſomewhat remarkable that birds of different ſpecies, ſuch as the Ring-dottrel, Sanderling, &c. which aſſociate with the Purre, Dunlin, &c. ſhould underſtand the ſignal, which, from their wheeling about altogether with ſuch promptitude and good order, it would appear is given to the whole flock.

† In a variety of this ſpecies, obligingly preſented by Geo. Strickland, Eſq. of Ripon, the bill was bent a little downward; and the fore part of the neck and the breaſt were of a pale reddiſh buff colour: in other reſpects it did not differ materially.

There is reaſon to ſuſpect that ſome ornithologiſts have denominated this bird the Dwarf Curlew; and probably the Cincle, or L'Alouette de Mer, of Buffon, and the variety of the Purre, deſcribed by Latham, only differ from the ſpecimen whence the above drawing was taken, in age or ſex.



LITTLE STINT.

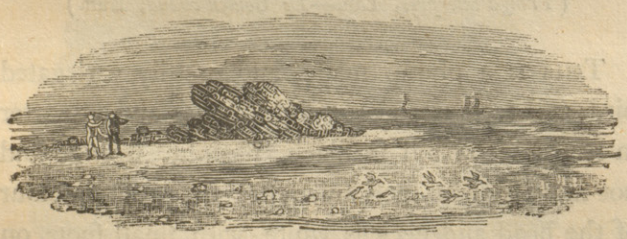
LITTLE SANDPIPER, OR LEAST SNIPE.

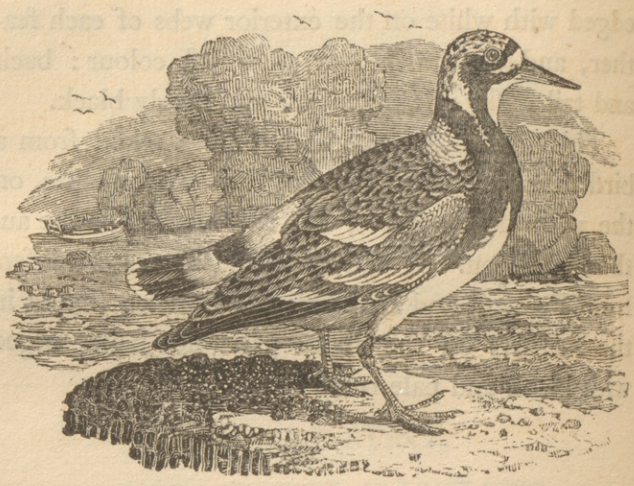
(*Tringa puſilla*, Lin.—*La petite Alouette de Mer*, Briſſon.)

THIS bird, the leaſt of the Sandpiper tribe, in its figure and plumage nearly reſembles the laſt two kinds. It weighs twelve pennyweights troy, and meaſures in length, extended, from the point of the beak to the end of the tail, nearly ſix inches; from tip to tip of its wing, about eleven inches and a half; and the bill, to the corners of the mouth, is five-eighths of an inch. The feathers on the crown of the head are black, edged with ruſt colour: it is marked, like moſt of the genus, by a light ſtreak over each eye, and a darkiſh ſpot below and before them: the throat, fore part of the neck, and belly are white; and the breaſt is tinged with pale red-

diſh yellow: the ſhoulders and ſcapulars are black, edged with white on the exterior webs of each feather, and on the interior with ruſt colour: back and tail duſky: legs ſlender, and nearly black.

This figure and deſcription were taken from a bird ſhot by Robert Pearſon, Eſq. of Newcaſtle, on the 10th of September, 1801, the only one the author has ſeen. It will be remarked that it differs from Pennant and Latham's deſcriptions, ſimply in the feathers on the upper parts not being edged with black and pale ruſty brown.





TURNSTONE.

SEA DOTTEREL, OR HEBRIDAL SANDPIPER.

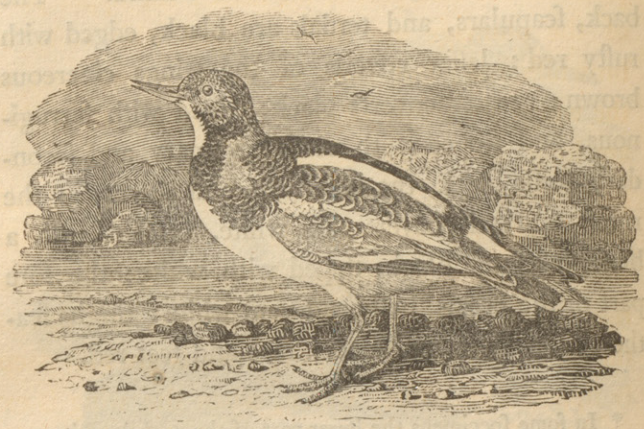
(*Tringa interpres*, Lin.—*Le Coulon-chaud*, Buff.)

THIS is a plump made, and prettily variegated bird, and meaſures about eight inches and a quarter in length: the bill is black, ſtraight, ſtrong, and not more than an inch in length: the ground colour of the head and neck is white, with ſmall ſpots on the crown and hinder parts; a black ſtroke croſſes the forehead to the eyes; the auriculars are formed by a patch of the ſame colour, which, pointing forward to the corners of the mouth, and falling down, is ſpread over the ſides of the breaſt, whence aſcends another branch, which, like a band, goes

about the lower part of the neck behind. * The back, ſcapulars, and tertials are black, edged with ruſty red: leſſer coverts of the wings cinereous brown; greater coverts black, edged with ferruginous, and tipped with white: primary and ſecondary quills black, the latter white at the ends: the rump and tail coverts are white, croſſed with a black bar: tail black, tipped with white: the fore part of the breaſt, belly and vent white: thighs feathered nearly to the knees: legs and feet red.

* In ſome ſpecimens the lower part of the neck is white.





TURNSTONE.

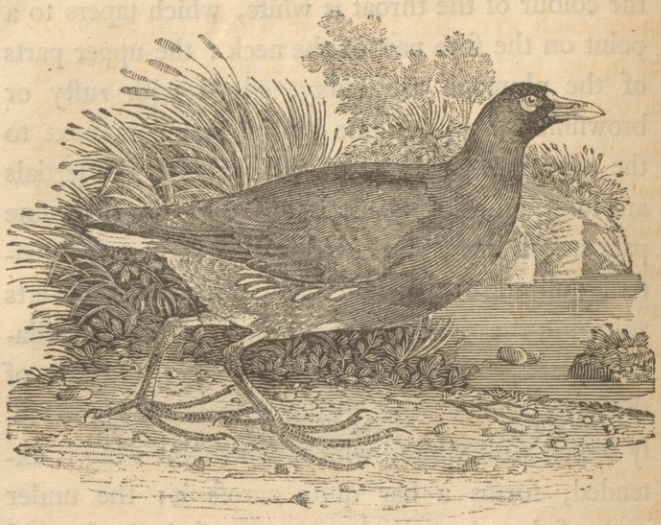
(*Tringa morinella*, Lin.—*Le Coulon-chaud cendré*, Buff.)

THIS bird is like the preceding ſpecies in its ſize and ſhape. The bill is ſhort, ſtrong, thick at the baſe, and of a dark horn colour, tinged with red: the crown and hinder part of the head are duſky, edged with greyiſh brown; the fore part, from the eyes to the bill, pale brown; a curved band of the latter colour bounds the lower part of the neck, points forward, and falls down towards the points of the wings; between this band and the head, is a demi-ring of browniſh black, which nearly ſurrounds the neck, a branch from which ſtrikes upwards to the corners of the mouth, and another falls down, forming a kind of inverted gorget on the fore part of the neck, and ſides of the breaſt:

the colour of the throat is white, which tapers to a point on the fore part of the neck: the upper parts of the plumage are dusky, edged with rusty or brownish red; but some of the scapulars next to the wings are partly edged with white: the tertials are long, and deeply edged and tipped with a fine pale rufous brown: the ridge of the wings and bastard quills are brownish black; the lesser coverts adjoining the ridge, white: primaries and secondaries, black,—the bases of the former, and tips of the latter, white; the greater coverts are also deeply tipped with white, which, when the wing is extended, forms a bar quite across it: the under parts of the plumage, lower part of the back, and tail coverts are white, excepting a black patch which crosses the rump. The tail consists of twelve black feathers, tipped vith white, except the two middle ones, which are entirely black: the legs and toes are short, and of an orange red. The male excels the female in the beauty of his plumage; her pyebald marks are not so distinct, and her colours are uniformly more dull and confused.

These birds frequent the sea shores in various parts of Great Britain, and have obtained their name from their manner of turning over small stones in quest of their prey, which lies concealed under them.

This species of Turnstone is chiefly confined to the northern, as is the former to the southern parts of Great Britain.



WATER HEN.

COMMON GALINULE, OR MOOR HEN.

(*Fulica chloropus*, Lin.—*La Poule d'Eau*, Buff.)

THE weight of this bird varies from ten and a half to fifteen ounces: the length from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail is about fourteen inches, the breadth twenty-two: the bill is rather more than an inch long, of a greeniſh yellow at the tip, and reddiſh towards the baſe, whence a ſingular kind of horny or membraneous ſubſtance ſhields the forehead as far as the eyes: this appendage to the bill is as red as ſealing wax in the breeding ſeaſon; at other times it varies or fades into a white colour. The head is ſmall and black, except a white ſpot

under each eye, the irides of which are red: all the upper part of the plumage is of a dark ſhining olive green, inclining to brown; the under parts are of a dark hoary lead colour: vent feathers black; thoſe on the belly and the thighs tipped with dirty white: the long looſe feathers on the ſides, which hang over the upper part of the thighs, are black, ſtreaked with white: the ridge of the wing, outſide feathers of the tail, and thoſe underneath, are white: the upper bare part of the thighs is red; from the knees to the toes, the colours are different ſhades, from pale yellow to deep green: the toes are very long, the middle one meaſuring, to the end of the nail, nearly three inches; their underſides are broad, being furniſhed with membraneous edgings their whole length on each ſide, by which the bird is enabled to ſwim, and eaſily run over the ſurface of the ſlimy mud by the ſides of the waters, where it frequents.

The body of the Water Hen is long and compreſſed at the ſides, and the legs are placed far behind; its feathers are thickly ſet, or compact, and are bedded upon down. Like the Water Rail and Water Crake, it lives concealed, during the day, among reeds and willows, by the ſides of rivers or rivulets, which it prefers to bogs and ſtagnant pools: like thoſe birds, it can run over the ſurface of ſuch waters as are thickly covered with weeds, and it dives and hides itſelf with equal eaſe: like the Wa-

ter Crake, it alſo flirts up its tail when running, and flies with its legs hanging down, but is a better ſwimmer. In the evenings, it creeps, runs, and ſkulks by the margins of the waters, among the roots of the buſhes, oſiers, and long looſe herbage which over-hang the banks, in queſt of its food, which conſiſts of water inſects, ſmall fiſhes, worms, aquatic plants and ſeeds. It is likewiſe granivorous, and, if killed in September or October, after having had the advantage of a neighbouring ſtubble, its fleſh is very good.

The female makes her neſt of a large quantity of withered reeds and ruſhes, cloſely interwoven, and is particularly careful to have it placed in a moſt retired ſpot, cloſe by the brink of the waters; and, it is ſaid, ſhe never quits it without covering her eggs with the leaves of the ſurrounding herbage. Pennant and Latham ſay, ſhe builds her neſt upon ſome low ſtump of a tree, or ſhrub, by the water's ſide: no doubt ſhe may ſometimes vary the place of her neſt, according as particular circumſtances may command, but ſhe generally prefers the other mode of building it. She lays ſix or ſeven eggs at a time, and commonly has two hatchings in a ſeaſon. The eggs are nearly two inches in length, and are irregularly and thinly marked with ruſt-coloured ſpots on a yellowiſh white ground. The young brood remain but a ſhort time in the neſt, under the nurturing care of the mother; but as ſoon as

they are able to crawl out, they take to the water, and ſhift for themſelves.

Although the Water Hen is no where very numerous, yet one ſpecies or other of them is met with in almoſt every country in the known world. It is not yet aſcertained whether they ever migrate from this to other countries, but it is well known that they make partial flittings from one diſtrict to another, and are found in the cold mountainous tracts in ſummer, and in lower and warmer ſituations in winter.

On examination of ſeveral ſpecimens of this bird, in full feather, they were found, like moſt birds of plain plumage, very little different from each other.

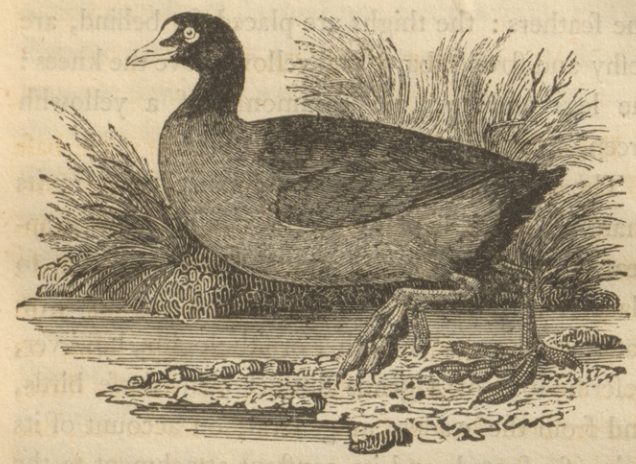


OF THE COOT.

Bill ſtrong, thick, ſloping to a point; the baſe of the upper mandible riſing far up into the forehead: both mandibles of equal length: noſtrils inclining to oval, narrow, ſhort: body compreſſed: wings and tail ſhort: toes long, furniſhed with broad ſcalloped membranes between each joint, on each ſide; the inner toe has two, the middle three, and the outer four ſcallops: and the hinder toe, one plain membrane adhering to it its whole length.

The Coot is met with in various parts of Europe, Aſia, and America; its fleſh is of a ſtrong *marſhy* taſte; for which, by ſome people, it is much liked; while others, for the ſame reaſon, hold it in little eſtimation.





COOT,

OR, BALD COOT.

(*Fulica atra*, Lin.—*La Foulque, ou Morrelle*, Buff.)

THIS bird generally weighs, when in full condition, about twenty-eight ounces, and meaſures fifteen inches in length. The bill is of a greeniſh white colour, more than an inch and a quarter long: a callous white membrane, like that of the Water Hen, but larger, is ſpread over the forehead, which alſo, as in that bird, changes its colour to a pale red in the breeding ſeaſon: irides red: the upper part of the plumage is black, except the outer edges of the wings, and a ſpot under each eye, which are white: the under parts are of a hoary dark aſh or lead colour. The ſkin is

cloathed with a thick down, and covered with cloſe fine feathers: the thighs are placed far behind, are fleſhy and ſtrong, bare, and yellow above the knees: the legs and toes are commonly of a yellowiſh green, but ſometimes of a lead colour.

The Common Coot has ſo many traits in its character, and ſo many features in its general appearance like the Rails and Water Hens, that to place it after them, ſeems a natural and eaſy gradation: Linnæus and other ornithologiſts, however, deſcribe it as of a genus diſtinct from thoſe birds, and from the waders in general, on account of its being fin-footed, and its conſtant attachment to the waters, which, indeed, it ſeldom quits. With it naturaliſts begin the numerous tribe of ſwimmers, and rank it among thoſe that are the moſt compleatly dependent upon the watery element for their ſupport: it ſwims and dives with as much eaſe as almoſt any of them; and alſo, like thoſe which ſeldom venture upon land, it is a bad traveller, and may be ſaid not to walk, but to ſplaſh and waddle between one pool and another, with a laboured, ill-balanced, and aukward gait.

Theſe birds, like thoſe of the preceding kinds, ſkulk and hide themſelves, during the day, among ruſhes, ſedges, and weeds, which grow abundantly in the loughs and ponds, where they take up their conſtant abode: they rarely venture abroad, except in the duſk, and in the night, in queſt of their food,

which conſiſts of the herbage, ſeeds, inſects, and the ſlippery inhabitants of ſtagnant waters. It ſeldom happens that the ſportſman and his dog can force the Coot to ſpring from its retreat; for it will, in a manner, bury itſelf in the mud rather than take wing, and when it is very cloſely purſued, and compelled to riſe, it does this with much *fluſtering* and apparent difficulty.

This ſpecies is met with in Great Britain, at all ſeaſons of the year, and it is generally believed that it does not migrate to other countries, but changes its ſtations, and removes in the autumn from the leſſer pools or loughs, where the young have been reared, to the larger lakes, where flocks aſſemble in the winter. The female commonly builds her neſt in a buſh of ruſhes, ſurrounded by the water; * it is compoſed of a great quantity of coarſe dried weeds, well matted together, and lined within with ſofter and finer graſſes: ſhe lays from twelve to fifteen eggs at a time, and commonly hatches twice in a ſeaſon: her eggs are about the ſize of thoſe of a pullet, and are of a pale browniſh white colour,

* A Bald Coot built her neſt in Sir William Middleton's lake, at Belſay, Northumberland, among the ruſhes, which were afterwards looſened by the wind, and, of courſe, the neſt was driven about, and floated upon the ſurface of the water, in every direction; notwithſtanding which, the female continued to ſit as uſual, and brought out her young upon her moveable habitation.

ſprinkled with numerous ſmall dark ſpots, which, at the thicker end, ſeem as if they had run into each other, and formed bigger blotches.

As ſoon as the young quit the ſhell, they plunge into the water, dive, and ſwim about with great eaſe; but they ſtill gather together about the mother, and take ſhelter under her wings, and do not entirely leave her for ſome time. They are at firſt covered with ſooty-coloured down, and are of a ſhapeleſs appearance: while they are in this ſtate, and before they have learned, by experience, to ſhun their foes, the Kite, Moor Buzzard, and others of the Hawk tribe, make dreadful havoc among them; * and this, notwithſtanding the numerous brood, may account for the ſcarcity of the ſpecies.

* The Pike is alſo the indiſcriminate devourer of the young of all theſe water birds.



GREATER COOT.

(*Fulica aterrima*, Lin.—*La Grande Foulque, ou la Macroule*, Buff.)

"THIS is of a larger ſize than the laſt, but differs not in the colour of the plumage, except that it is blacker. *Briſſon* diſtinguiſhes the two by the colour of the bare part of the forehead, which is in this white; and the garters, which are of a deep red.* This bird is ſaid to be found in *Lancaſhire* and *Scotland*. It ſhould ſeem to be a mere variety of the former, did not authors join in advancing the contrary. They are more plentiful on the continent, being found in *Ruſſia* and the weſtern part of *Siberia* very common; and are alſo in plenty at *Sologne* and the neighbouring parts, where they call it *Judelle*. The people eat them on *maigre days*, and the fleſh is much eſteemed." *Latham.*

* "This can be no diſtinction, as birds differ in the colour of theſe parts according to the ſeaſon." *Latham.*



OF THE PHALAROPE.

Bill ſtrait and ſlender: noſtrils minute: body and legs like the Sandpiper: toes furniſhed with ſcalloped membranes.

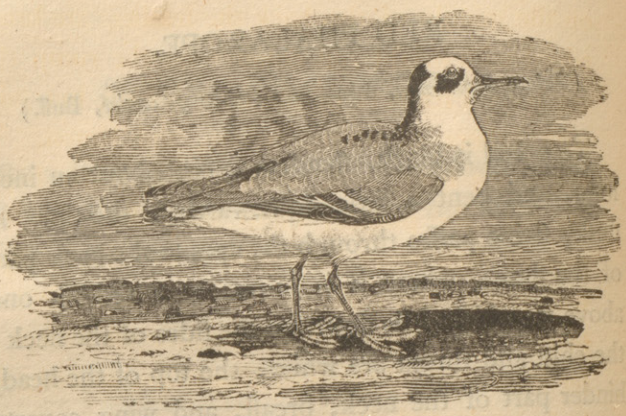


RED PHALAROPE.

(*Tringa hyperborea*, Lin.—*Le Phalarope cendre*, Buff.)

THE bill is black, ſlender, ſtrait, about an inch long, and bent a little downwards at the tip. A duſky ſtripe paſſes through the eyes to the back part of the head, where it is joined to a reddiſh one above it, which falls down on the ſides of the neck: the chin and throat are white; the top of the head, hinder part of the neck, breaſt, and wing coverts of a lead colour, darkeſt on the breaſt: the back and ſcapulars are the ſame, but ſtriped with yellowiſh ruſty edges: the greater coverts are croſſed with a white ſtripe; the quills duſky: the tail coverts are barred with black and white: tail ſhort, and of a cinereous colour: belly white: legs black.

This ſpecies is rarely met with in England; but it is ſaid to be pretty common on the Continent. It is, however, a native of the Arctic regions, and only migrates ſouthward to ſhun the long dreary freezing period of the winter months. In ſummer it returns to breed and rear its young, and has been met with by voyagers and travellers in Hudſon's Bay, Greenland, Spitzbergen, &c. It is ſeen in Greenland in April, and is ſaid to leave it in September.



GREY PHALAROPE.

COOT-FOOTED TRINGA, OR SCALLOP-TOED SANDPIPER.

(*Tringa Lobata*, Lin.—*Le Phalarope, à feſtons dentiles*, Buff.)

THE bill of this bird is nearly an inch long: the upper mandible is of a duſky horn colour, grooved on each ſide, and flatted near the tip; the under one is orange towards the baſe. The eyes are placed high in the head; there is a dark patch underneath each, and the ſame on the hinder part of the head and neck. The ſhoulder and ſcapular feathers are of a fine lead colour, edged with white: fore part of the head, throat, neck, and breaſt, white: the belly is alſo white, but ſlightly daſhed with pale ruſt colour: the greater coverts are broadly tipped with white, which forms an oblique bar acroſs the wings, when cloſed: ſome of the firſt

and ſecondary quills are narrowly edged with white: on the middle of the back the feathers are brown, edged with bright ruſt colour: on the rump there are ſeveral feathers of the ſame colour, but mixed with others of white, rufous, and lemon. The wings are long, and, when cloſed, reach beyond the tail: the primary quills are duſky, the lower part of their inner ſides white; ſecondaries tipped with white: tail duſky, edged with aſh-colour: legs black. The ſcalloped membranes on its toes differ from thoſe of the Red Phalarope, in being finely ſerrated on their edges.

This curious and pretty bird, like the preceding, is a native of the northern regions of Europe, Aſia, and America, and migrates ſouthward in the winter. It has ſeldom been met with in any part of the Britiſh Iſles. Ray, however, ſaw one at Brignal, in Yorkſhire; and Mr Pennant mentions one which was ſhot in the ſame county; Mr Tunſtall another, ſhot at Staveley, in Derbyſhire;—and the ſpecimen from which this drawing and deſcription were taken, was ſhot near the city of Cheſter, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dalton, of the 4th regiment of dragoons, on the 14th of October, 1800.



OF THE GREBES.

THE bills of this genus are compreſſed on the ſides, and though not large, are firm and ſtrong, ſtraight and ſharp-pointed: noſtrils linear: a bare ſpace between the bill and the eyes: tongue ſlightly cloven at the end: body depreſſed: feathers thickly ſet, compact, very ſmooth and gloſſy: wings ſhort; ſcapulars long; no tail: legs placed far behind, much compreſſed, or flattened on the ſides, and ſerrated behind with a double row of notches: toes furniſhed on each ſide with membranes; the inner toes broader than the outer; the nails broad and flat.

This genus is ranked by Ray and Linnæus with the Diver and Guillemot; but as the Grebes differ materially from thoſe birds, Briſſon, Pennant, and Latham have ſeparated them.

The Grebes are almoſt continually upon the water, where they are remarkable for their agility: at ſea they ſeem to ſport with the waves, through which they dart with the greateſt eaſe, and, in ſwimming, ſlide along, as it were without any apparent effort, upon the ſurface, with wonderful velocity; they alſo dive to a great depth in purſuit of their prey. They frequent freſh water lakes and inlets of rivers, as well as the ocean, to which they are obliged to reſort in ſevere ſeaſons, when the

former are bound up by the ice. No cold or damp can penetrate their thick close plumage, which looks as it were glazed on the surface, and by which they are enabled, while they have open water, to brave the rigours of the coldest winter. They can take wing from the water, or drop from an eminence, and fly with great swiftness to a considerable distance; but, when they happen to alight on the land, are very helpless, for they cannot either rise from the flat surface of the ground, or make much progress in walking upon it. On shore they sit with the body erect, commonly upon the whole length of their legs, and, in attempting to regain the water, they aukwardly waddle forward in the same position; and if, by any interruption, they happen to fall on the belly, they sprawl with their feet, and flap their short wings as if they were wounded, and may easily be taken by the hand, for they can make no other defence than by striking violently with their sharp-pointed beak. They live upon fish, and, it is said, also upon fresh-water roots and sea-weeds. They are generally very fat and heavy in proportion to their size.

The females generally build their nests in the holes of the rocky precipices which overhang the sea-shores; and those which breed on lakes, make theirs of withered reeds and rushes, &c. and fix it among the growing stalks of a tuft or bush of such like

herbage, close by the water's edge. They lay from two to four eggs at one hatching.

The skins of these birds are dressed with the feathers on, and made into warm beautiful tippets and muffs: the under part only is used for this purpose; and a skin of one of the species sells as high as fourteen shillings.





GREAT-CRESTED GREBE.

GREATER-CRESTED DOUCKER, CARGOOSE, ASH-COLOURED LOON, OR GAUNT.

(*Colymbus criſtatus*, Lin.—*Le Grèbe huppé*, Buff.)

This bird is the largeſt of the Grebes, weighing about two pounds and a half, and meaſuring twenty-one inches in length, and thirty in breadth. The bill is about two inches and a quarter long, dark at the tip, and red at the baſe: the bare ſtripe, or lore, between the bill and eyes, is, in the breeding ſeaſon, red, afterwards changes to duſky: irides,

fine pale crimſon. The head, in adult males, is furniſhed with a great quantity of feathers, which form a kind of ruff, ſurrounding the upper part of the neck; thoſe on each ſide of the head, behind, are longer than the reſt, and ſtand out like ears: this ruff is of a bright ferruginous colour, edged on the underſide with black. The upper parts of the plumage are of a ſooty or mouſe-coloured brown; the under parts of a gloſſy or ſilvery white: the inner ridge of the wing is white; the ſecondaries of the ſame colour, forming an oblique bar acroſs the wings, when cloſed: the outſide of the legs are duſky, the inſide and toes of a pale green.

This ſpecies is common in the fens and lakes in various parts of England, where they breed and rear their young. The female conceals her neſt among the flags and reeds which grow in the water, upon which it is ſaid to float, and that ſhe hatches her eggs amidſt the moiſture which ouzes through it. It is made of various kinds of dried fibres, ſtalks and leaves of water plants, and (Pennant ſays) of the roots of bugbane, ſtalks of water-lilly, pond-weed, and water-violet; and he aſſerts, that when it happens to be blown from among the reeds, it floats about upon the ſurface of the open water.

Theſe birds are met with in almoſt every lake in the northern parts of Europe, as far as Iceland, and ſouthward to the Mediterranean; they are alſo found in various parts of America.



TIPPET GREBE.

GREATER DOBCHICK, OR GREATER LOON.

(*Colymbus urinator*, Lin.—*La Grebe*, Buff.)

THIS bird differs from the laſt only in being ſomewhat leſs, in having its neck, in moſt ſpecimens, ſtriped downward on the ſides with narrow lines of duſky and white, and in having no creſt.

Modern ornithologiſts begin to ſuſpect, that the Tippet Grebe is the female of the Great-creſted Grebe, or a young bird of that ſpecies. Latham ſays, "It is with ſome reluctance that we pen our doubts concerning the identity of this, as a ſpecies, at leaſt as being diſtinct from the Great-creſted Grebe, in contradiction to what former authors have recorded on the ſubject. It is certain that the laſt-named bird varies exceedingly at different pe-

riods of life; and we are likewiſe as certain that the birds which have been pointed out to us as the Geneva Grebes, have been no other than young ones of the Great-creſted, not having yet attained the creſt; and whoever will compare Briſſon's three figures of the birds in queſtion, will find (the creſt excepted) that they all exactly coincide, allowing for their different periods of age. We have been further led into this opinion from the circumſtance of a large flock of them, which appeared in various parts of the ſhores of the Thames, from Graveſend to Greenwich, laſt winter, many of which were killed, and came under our inſpection: among them we found the greateſt variety about the head, from being perfectly without a creſt, to the moſt complete one, with all the intermediate ſtages abovementioned."

In the progreſs of this work, the author has been favoured, by ſporting friends, with ſeveral of theſe birds, which differed from each other in the manner deſcribed by Mr Latham, and induced him to adopt the opinion of that gentleman concerning them.



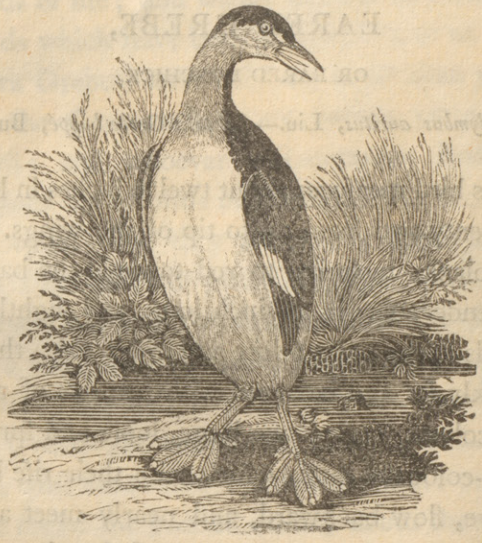
EARED GREBE,

OR EARED DOBCHICK.

(*Colymbus auritus*, Lin.—*Le petit Grebe huppé*, Buff.)

This bird meaſures about twelve inches in length, and twenty-two from tip to tip of the wings. The bill is black, inclining to red towards the baſe, rather ſlender, nearly an inch long, and ſlightly bent upwards at the point: lore and irides red: the head is thickly ſet and enlarged with feathers of a ſooty black colour, except two large, looſe and ſpreading orange-coloured tufts, which take their riſe behind each eye, flow backward, and nearly meet at their tips: the neck and upper parts of the plumage are black, the under parts of a gloſſy white: the ſides a ruſty cheſnut colour: legs greeniſh black. The male and female are nearly alike, only the latter is not furniſhed or puffed up about the head with ſuch a quantity of feathers.

This ſpecies is not numerous in the Britiſh Iſles. Pennant ſays they inhabit and breed in the fens near Spalding, in Lincolnſhire, and that the female makes a neſt not unlike that of the Creſted Grebe, and lays four or five ſmall white eggs. The Eared Grebe is found in the northern regions of Europe, as far as Iceland, and is alſo met with in ſouthern climates. The circumnavigator Bougainville ſays, it is called the "Diver with Spectacles" in the Falkland Iſlands.



DUSKY GREBE,

OR BLACK AND WHITE DOBCHICK.

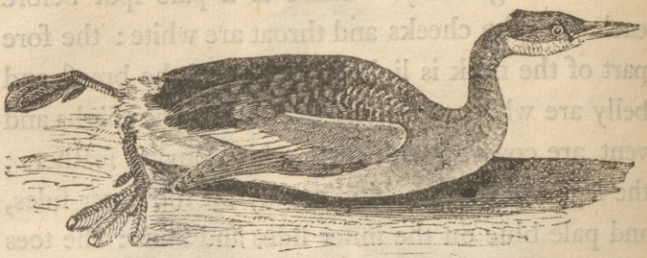
(*Nigricans*, ——. *La petite Grebe*, Buff.)

This ſpecies meaſures about an inch leſs in length, and two in breadth, than the laſt. The bill is more than an inch long, and of a pale blue colour, with reddiſh edges: lore and orbits red: irides bright yellow: the upper part of the head, hinder part of the neck, ſcapulars, and rump, are of a dark ſooty, or a mouſe-coloured brown: the feathers on the back are nearly of the ſame colour, but gloſſy, and with greyiſh edges: the ridge of the wings and ſecondary quills are white, the reſt

of the wing duſky. There is a pale ſpot before each eye: the cheeks and throat are white: the fore part of the neck is light brown; and the breaſt and belly are white and gloſſy like ſatin: the thighs and vent are covered with dirty white downy feathers: the legs are white behind, duſky on the outer ſides, and pale blue on the inner ſides and ſhins: the toes and webbed membranes are alſo blue on the upper ſides, and dark underneath.

This deſcription was taken from a very perfect bird caught in Sand Hutton Car, near York, on the 28th of January, 1799, by the Rev. C. Rudſton: other ſpecimens of this ſpecies have differed in the ſhades of their plumage and colour of the bill: in ſome the upper mandible is yellow, from the noſtrils to the corners of the mouth, and the under one entirely of that colour.





RED-NECKED GREBE.

(*Colymbus ſubcriſtatus*, ——. *Le Jougris*, Buff.)

This bird meaſures from the bill to the rump ſeventeen inches, to the end of the toes twenty-two, and weighs eighteen ounces and three-quarters. The bill is about two inches long, duſky or horn-coloured on the ridge and tip, and on the ſides of it, towards the corners of the mouth, of a reddiſh yellow; the underſide of the lower mandible is alſo of the latter colour: lore duſky: irides dark hazel: the cheeks and throat are of a dirty or greyiſh white: the upper part of the head is black, with a greyiſh caſt; and the feathers are lengthened on each ſide on a line with the eyes backward, ſo as to look like a pair of rounded ears; theſe it can raiſe or depreſs at pleaſure: the fore part and ſides of the neck are of a dingy brown, mixed with feathers of a bright ruſty red: the upper parts of the plumage are of a darkiſh mouſe-coloured brown, lighteſt on the wing coverts, deepeſt on the

ſcapulars and rump, and edged with grey on the ſhoulders; the under parts are of a gloſſy white, like ſatin, mottled with indiſtinct browniſh ſpots: primary quills browniſh tawney, with dark-coloured tips; ſecondaries white: outer ſides of the legs duſky, inner ſides ſallow green: webs of the outer toes fleſh-colour, middle ones redder, and the inner ones orange.

Pennant ſuppoſes the Red-necked Grebe to be only a variety of the Great-creſted Grebe; but Latham, who had been furniſhed with ſeveral ſpecimens, is of opinion that it is a diſtinct ſpecies. He deſcribes the adult males, in full feather, as having their necks of an uniform reddiſh cheſnut; and the younger birds, when they have not obtained their full plumage, to be only partially ſpotted on their necks with that colour.

The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a ſpecimen, the gift of George Silvertop, of Minſteracres, Northumberland, Eſq. January 16th, 1802.





LITTLE GREBE.

DOBCHICK, SMALL DOUCKER, DIPPER, OR DIDAPPER.

(*Colymbus minutus*, Lin.—*Le Caſtagneux*, Buff.)

THIS is the leaſt of the Grebe tribe, weighing only between ſix and ſeven ounces, and meaſuring to the rump ten inches, to the end of the toes thirteen, and about ſixteen from tip to tip of the wings. The bill is ſcarcely an inch long, of a duſky reddiſh colour: irides hazel: the head is thickly cloathed with a downy kind of ſoft feathers, which it can puff up to a great ſize, or lay down flat at pleaſure: the cheeks are moſtly of a bay colour, fading towards the chin and throat into a yellowiſh white. The neck, breaſt, and all the upper parts of the plumage, are of a brown or cheſnut colour, tinged with red, lighteſt on the rump: the belly is white, clouded with aſh-colour, mixed with red: thighs and vent grey: greater quills dark brown; the leſſer white on their inner webs: legs dirty olive green.

The Little Grebe is a true aquatic, for it ſeldom quits the water, nor ventures beyond the ſedgy margins of the lake where it has taken up its abode. It is a moſt excellent diver, and can remain a long while under water, in purſuit of its prey, or to ſhun danger. It is found in almoſt every lake, and ſometimes upon rivers, but ſeldom goes out to ſea. Its food is of the ſame kind, and its habits much the ſame as thoſe of the other Grebes.

Ornithologiſts and ſportſmen deſcribe the neſt of this bird as being of a large ſize, and compoſed of a very great quantity of graſs and water plants, at leaſt a foot in thickneſs, and ſo placed in the water, that the female hatches her eggs amidſt the continual wet, in which they were firſt laid: and it is conjectured that the natural warmth of her body occaſions a fermentation of the herbage, which greatly aids the incubation. She lays from four to ſix eggs, of a yellowiſh dull white colour, and is ſaid to cover up, or hide them, with the ſurrounding leaves, every time ſhe has occaſion to ſtir abroad.

This ſpecies of the Grebe is an inhabitant of both Europe and America. In ſeveral ſpecimens furniſhed by the author's ſporting friends, the difference was very trifling, except that the plumage of ſome was more daſhed with red than that of others.

BLACK-CHIN GREBE.

THIS bird is deſcribed as being larger than the laſt. "Chin black: fore part of the neck ferruginous; hinder part mixed with duſky: belly cinereous and ſilver intermixed. Inhabits Tiree, one of the Hebrides." *Latham.*



OF THE AVOSET.

BILL long, ſlender, very thin, depreſſed, and bending conſiderably upwards: noſtrils narrow and pervious: tongue ſhort: legs very long: feet palmated; the webs deeply indented from the nails towards their middle: back toe placed high, and very ſmall.

The Avoſet is migratory, and is met with in temperate climates, on the ſhores in various parts of Europe.





AVOSET.

SCOOPER, CROOKED-BILL, OR YELPER.

(*Recurviroſtra Avoſetta*, Lin.—*L'Avocette*, Buff.)

THIS bird, which is the only Britiſh ſpecies of Avoſet, does not much exceed the Lapwing in the bulk of its body; but, from the length of its legs, it is much taller. It meaſures about eighteen inches in length, to the end of the toes twenty-two, and from tip to tip thirty, and weighs from twelve to fourteen ounces. The bill is black, about three inches and a half long, and of a ſingular conformation, looking not unlike flexible flat pieces of whalebone, curved upwards to the tip: the irides are hazel: the head round, black on the upper

part to below the nape of the neck: above and beneath each eye, in moſt ſpecimens, there are ſmall white ſpots; but in the one from which the above figure was taken, a ſtreak of that colour paſſed over each eye towards the hinder part of the head. The thighs are naked, and, as well as the legs and feet, are of a fine pale blue colour. The whole plumage of the Avoſet is white, interſected with black; and, like moſt of the variegated or pyebald birds, the patches of theſe colours are not placed exactly the ſame in every individual; therefore, as the bird cannot be miſtaken, a more minute deſcription is unneceſſary.

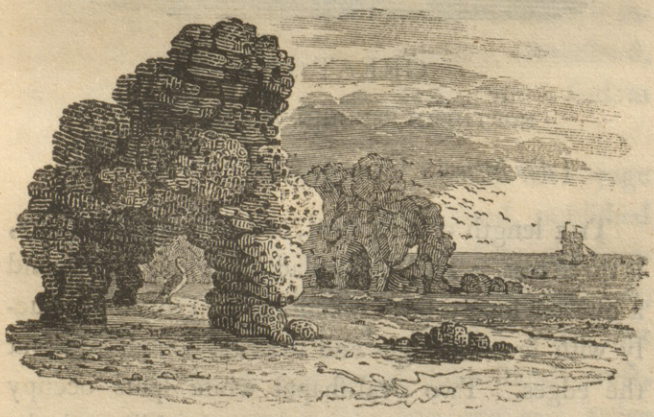
Theſe birds are common in the winter about the lakes, mouths of rivers, and marſhes, in the ſouthern parts of England; and they aſſemble in large flocks on the fens, in the breeding ſeaſon. When the female is frightened off her neſt, ſhe counterfeits lameneſs; and when a flock is diſturbed, they fly, with their necks ſtretched out, and their legs extended behind, over the head of the ſpectator, much in the ſame way as the Peewit or Lapwing, making a ſhrill noiſe, and uttering a yelping cry of *twit, twit,* all the time. The places where they have been feeding may be traced out by the ſemicircular marks left in the mud or ſand by their bills in ſcooping out their food, which conſiſts of ſpawn, worms, inſects, &c. Latham ſays, "they lay two eggs, the ſize of thoſe of a pigeon, an inch and

three quarters in length, of a cinereous grey, ſingularly marked with deep browniſh dark patches, of irregular ſizes and ſhapes, beſides ſome under markings of a duſky hue." They keep near the ſhore, wading about, up to the belly in the water, and ſometimes ſwimming. In all their motions they are ſmart, lively, and volatile, and do not remain long ſtationary in one ſpot.



OF THE AUK, OR PENGUIN.

Bill ſtrong, thick, convex, compreſſed on the ſides: noſtrils linear, placed parallel to the edge of the bill: tongue almoſt as long as the bill: toes, three in number, all placed forwards.





GREAT AUK.

NORTHERN PENGUIN, OR GAIR-FOWL.

(*Alca impennis*, Lin.—*Le Grand Pingoin*, Buff.)

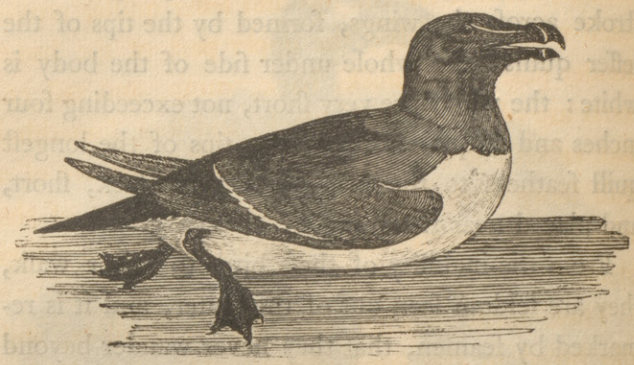
THE length of this bird, to the end of the toes, is three feet. The bill is black, and four inches and a quarter long; both mandibles are croſſed obliquely with ſeveral ridges and furrows, which meet at the edges. Two oval-ſhaped white ſpots occupy nearly the whole ſpace between the bill and the eyes: the head, back part of the neck, and all the upper parts of the body and wings are covered with

ſhort, ſoft, gloſſy black feathers, excepting a white ſtroke acroſs the wings, formed by the tips of the leſſer quills: the whole under ſide of the body is white: the wings are very ſhort, not exceeding four inches and a quarter, from the tips of the longeſt quill feathers to the firſt joint: legs black, ſhort, and placed near the vent.

From the inability of theſe birds to fly or walk, they are ſeldom ſeen out of the water, and it is remarked by ſeamen, that they never wander beyond ſoundings. The female lays only one egg, which ſhe depoſits and hatches on a ledge cloſe to the ſeamark: it is of a very large ſize, being about ſix inches in length, of a white colour, ſtreaked with lines of a purple caſt, and blotched with dark ruſty ſpots at the thicker end.

This ſpecies is not numerous any where: it inhabits Norway, Iceland, the Ferro Iſles, Greenland, and other cold regions of the north, but is ſeldom ſeen on the Britiſh ſhores.

The Gair-fowl deſcribed by Martin, in his voyage to St Kilda, and account of that iſland, publiſhed in 1698, differs in ſome particulars from the foregoing: he ſays, "it is larger than the Solan Gooſe, black, red about the eyes, has a large white ſpot under each eye, a long broad bill; ſtands erect, has ſhort wings, cannot fly; lays one egg, twice the ſize of that of the Solan Gooſe, variouſly ſpeckled with black, green, and duſky ſpots."



RAZOR-BILL.

AUK, MURRE, FALK, MARROT, OR SCOUT.

(*Alca torda*, Lin.—*Le Pingoin*, Buff.)

THE wings of this ſpecies are more furniſhed with feathers, and longer in proportion to the ſize of the bird than thoſe of the laſt; they meaſure, extended, about twenty-ſeven inches: the length of the bird, from bill to tail, is eighteen. The bill is black, ſtrong, curved towards the point, and ſharply edged; the upper mandible is croſſed with four tranſverſe grooves, and the under one with three, the broadeſt of which is white, and forms a band acroſs them both: the inſide of the mouth is yellow: the baſe of the bill is covered with feathers a great way forward, upon which, on each ſide, is placed a ſingular, narrow, white ſtreak, which paſſes to the corner of the eye; another white ſtripe,

or bar, formed by the tips and leſſer quills, croſſes each wing obliquely: the upper part of the head, hinder part of the neck, back, rump, and tail coverts are of a ſoft gloſſy black, and look ſomething like velvet: the cheeks, chin, and throat are of a dull ſooty dark brown: ridge and pinions of the wing, light brown: coverts and quills duſky: legs black.

Theſe birds aſſociate with the Guillemots, and alſo breed in the ſame places. About the beginning of May they take poſſeſſion of the higheſt impending rocks, for the purpoſe of incubation, and upon the ledges of theſe rocks they congregate in great numbers, ſitting cloſely together, tier above tier, and row above row: there they depoſit their ſingle large egg on the bare rock; and notwithſtanding the numbers of them, which are thus as it were mixed together, yet no confuſion takes place, for each bird knows her own egg, and hatches it in that ſituation.

It has often excited wonder that as the eggs have no neſt or bedding to reſt upon, they are not rolled off into the ſea by gales of wind, or upon being touched by the birds: it is alſo ſaid, that if they are removed by the human hand, it is impoſſible, or at leaſt extremely difficult, to replace them in their former ſteady ſituation. This is accounted for by ſome ornithologiſts, who aſſert that the egg is fixed to the ſpot upon which it is firſt laid, by a glu-

tinous ſubſtance with which the ſhell is covered, and which keeps it firmly in its place until the young is produced. The egg of this Auk is three inches long, of a greeniſh white colour, irregularly marked with dark ſpots. They are gathered, with other kinds, in great numbers, by the neighbouring inhabitants, from the rocky promontories in various parts of the Britiſh iſles, but particularly in the north, where the men who are accuſtomed to gather theſe eggs, are let down over the precipices by ropes, which are tied to, or held by, their companions above.

The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a ſpecimen in perfect plumage, ſhot on Jarrow-Slake, near the mouth of the Tyne, in May, by the late Mr Thomas Walton, of Farnacres, to whoſe memory, for many favours of the ſame kind, the author feels a large debt of gratitude.



BLACK-BILLED AUK.

(*Alca Pica*, Lin.—*Le Petit Pingoin*, Buff.)

LATHAM ſays, "This weighs eighteen ounces: is in length fifteen inches: breadth twenty-four. The bill is not above half the breadth of the Razor-bill's, and very little curved, perfectly ſmooth throughout the whole of its ſurface, except a ſlight indentation at the baſe: inſide of the mouth of a pale fleſh-colour: the top of the head, taking in the eyes, part of the neck, the back, wings, and tail, are black; on the ſides of the neck the black comes forward ſo as almoſt to meet on the fore part: the ſides of the head, throat, fore part of the neck, and all beneath, white: from behind the eye a duſky black mark tends to the hinder part of the head, as in the Leſſer Guillemot; the white on the ſides of the head is leſs pure than that on the under parts: all the ſecondary quills are tipped with white; and the primaries are of a deeper black than the others: legs browniſh black." Linnæus ſays the legs are red, but no other author records it. Latham further obſerves, "This, from its external marks, ſhould appear to be a different ſpecies from the Razor-bill, but we are pretty certain it is no other than the young of that bird."



PUFFIN.

MULLET, COULTERNEB, SEA-PARROT, POPE, OR WILLOCK.

(*Alca Arctica*, Lin.—*Le Macareux*, Buff.)

THE Puffin weighs about twelve ounces, and meaſures twelve inches in length, and twenty-one in breadth. Its ſingular bill looks not unlike a kind of ſheath ſlipped over both mandibles, and, from its appearance, the bird is not improperly named Coulterneb, or Knife-bill. At the baſe, where it is about an inch and a half in depth, it is rimmed with a white callous border, the two corners of which project above the brow, and below the chin. It is about the ſame in length, curved towards the point, compreſſed vertically, very flat, and tranſverſely furrowed on the ſides; the half of

it adjoining to the head is ſmooth, and of a fine lead coloured blue; the other part, to the tip, red: the noſtrils are placed in long narrow ſlits, near the edge of the bill: the corners of the mouth, when cloſed are curiouſly puckered, and form a kind of ſmall ſtar, or roſe: the eyes are protected by ſmall callous protuberances, both above and below: the edges of the eye-lids are crimſon: irides grey: the chin and cheeks are white, bordered with grey, the latter much puffed up with feathers, which makes the head look large and round. From behind the corner of each eye, the feathers are curiouſly ſeparated, forming a narrow line, which reaches to the hinder part of the head: the crown of the head, hinder part of the neck, and upper part of the plumage are black, and a collar of the ſame colour encircles the neck: the under parts are white: the tail conſiſts of ſixteen feathers: the legs are reddiſh orange.

The Puffin, like others of the ſame genus, takes wing with great difficulty, and walks upon the whole length of the leg and foot, with a wriggling aukward gait. In tempeſtuous weather it takes ſhelter in caverns and holes in the neareſt rocks, or in thoſe made by the rabbit on the beach, among the *bent* graſs, in which it ſits doſing, in ſnug ſecurity, till the return of calm weather; for theſe birds cannot brave the ſtorm, and it is not uncommon, when they have been overtaken by it, to find

them drowned and caſt on ſhore. Various kinds of fiſh, ſuch as ſmall crabs, ſhrimps, ſprats, and alſo ſea-weeds, are ſaid to be the food upon which they live; but it is evident, from the ſtructure, great ſtrength, and ſharpneſs of the bill, that they are furniſhed with powers to cruſh and pluck out other kinds of ſhell-fiſh, which ornithologiſts have not noticed.

The female makes no neſt; ſhe depoſits her ſingle whitiſh coloured egg upon the bare mould, in a hole dug out and formed in the ground, by her mate and herſelf, for that purpoſe; or in thoſe which they find ready made by the rabbits, whom they eaſily diſlodge. The parent birds are very attentive to their young, which they will defend to the laſt, by ſeverely biting whatever enemy attempts to moleſt them, and will ſuffer themſelves to be taken rather than deſert them: and yet, notwithſtanding this uncommon attachment, when the day of migration comes, the young ones which are not able to fly are left behind, and moſtly periſh of want, or are deſtroyed by birds of prey.

The bite of theſe birds is very ſevere: one ſent to the author in a box covered with netting, caught hold of the finger of a poor man, and brought away the fleſhy part, as if it had been cut out with a knife: but they may be tamed, and ſoon become familiar. They are fed on fiſh and other animal ſubſtances.

Theſe birds are ſpread over various parts of the northern world, and are met with on almoſt all the rocky cliffs on the coaſts of Britain and Ireland, and on many of the ſurrounding iſles, in immenſe numbers. They congregate in flocks of a magnitude regulated by the accommodations afforded them at their breeding places, at which they firſt aſſemble early in April, but do not ſettle to prepare for the buſineſs of incubation till May. They hatch their young in the beginning of July; from which time until nearly the middle of Auguſt they are employed in nurturing and rearing their brood: when this is accompliſhed, the whole aſſociated ſwarm leaves the place at once, and purſues its route to other regions, more ſuited to their future exigencies, there to ſpend the remainder of the varied year.

The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a perfect ſpecimen of an old bird, the preſent of Mrs Cheney, late Miſs Harriot Carr, of Dunſton-Bank; and on comparing it with ſeveral others, it appeared evident that their bills increaſe in ſize with their age.





LITTLE AUK.

LITTLE BLACK AND WHITE DIVER, GREENLAND DOVE, OR SEA-TURTLE.

(*Alca alle*, Lin.—*Le petit Guillemot*, Buff.)

THIS is plump round-ſhaped bird, and meaſures about nine inches in length. The bill is black, ſhort, thick, ſtrong, and convex; it is feathered from the corners of the mouth half way forward towards the point. The crown of the head is flat and black; all the upper parts of the plumage are of the ſame colour, except a narrow bar of white, formed by the tips of the leſſer quills acroſs the wings, and the ſcapulars, which are ſtreaked downwards with the ſame: the cheeks and under parts are white: legs and toes yellowiſh; webs duſky.

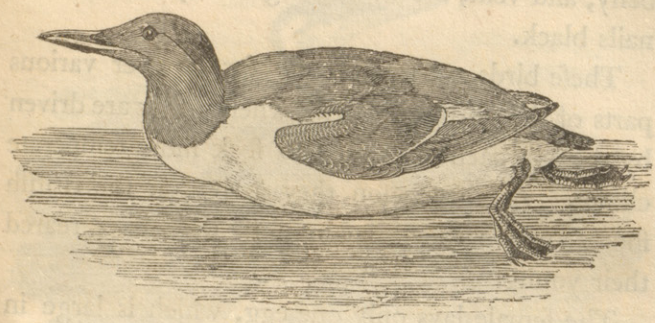
Theſe birds are inhabitants of Spitzbergen and Greenland, and are alſo met with at Newfoundland, where they are called Ice Birds; but they are rare viſitants of the Britiſh Iſles. That from which the above figure and deſcription were taken, was caught alive on the Durham coaſt, and was, for a ſhort time, fed with grain.



OF THE GUILLEMOT.

THE bills of birds of this genus, though of a ſlender ſhape, are firm, ſtrong, and pointed: the upper mandible ſlightly bending towards the end: baſe covered with ſoft ſhort feathers: noſtrils lodged in a hollow near the baſe: tongue ſlender, almoſt the length of the bill: thighs placed in the abdomen: no back toe.





GUILLEMOT.

WILLOCK, FOOLISH GUILLEMOT, SKOUT, KIDDAW, SEA-HEN, LAVY, OR STRANY.

(*Colymbus Troile*, Lin.—*Le Guillemot*, Buff.)

THE Guillemot is a plump heavy bird in proportion to its ſize, weighing about twenty-four ounces, and meaſuring only ſeventeen inches in length, and twenty-ſeven and a half in breadth. The bill is a blueiſh black colour, about two inches and three-quarters long, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, the inſide of which is yellow: both mandibles are ſlightly notched near their points: irides hazel: from each eye to the hinder part of the head, a narrow line is formed by a ſingular diviſion of the feathers, which here, as well as on the head and neck, are cloſe and ſmooth, and of a dull duſty mouſe-colour; the back, wings, and tail are nearly the ſame, but have a lead-coloured caſt: the tips of the leſſer quills, and the breaſt,

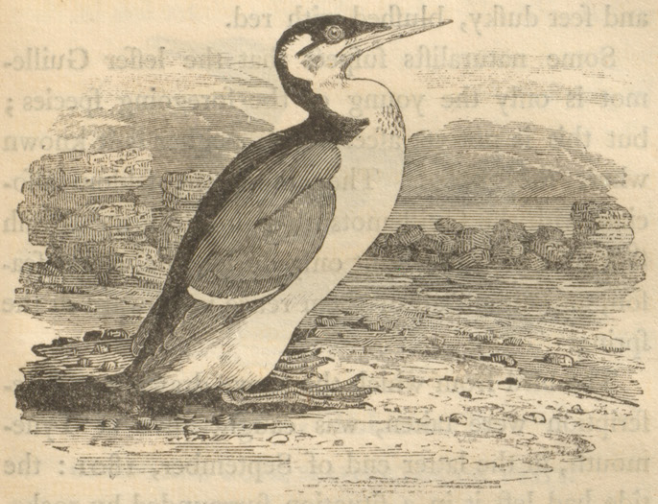
belly, and vent, are white: legs duſky and brown: nails black.

Theſe birds are numerouſly ſpread over various parts of the northern world, whence they are driven by the approach of winter to ſeek more temperate climes. At that ſeaſon they arrive on the Britiſh ſhores, where they remain until they have reared their young.

The female lays only one egg, which is large in proportion to her ſize, being about three inches in length: they are not all alike; thoſe of one bird being of a whitiſh ground, and of another, perhaps, pale blue, or pale ſea-green, and all of them are curiouſly and irregularly ſpotted and ſtreaked with black.

The Guillemots appear to be a ſtupid race of birds: they do not, like many other kinds, become cautious from experience, but ſuffer themſelves repeatedly to be ſhot at, as if they did not know danger, or care for life; for notwithſtanding they have ſeen their aſſociates drop at every fire, they ſtill continue to wheel about in the ſame circle, and to alight again on the ſame place whence they were at firſt diſturbed.

It has been before obſerved, that theſe birds aſſociate with, and breed in the ſame places as the Razor-bill, and that they are, in many places, indiſcriminately called Willocks.



LESSER GUILLEMOT,

OR MARROT.

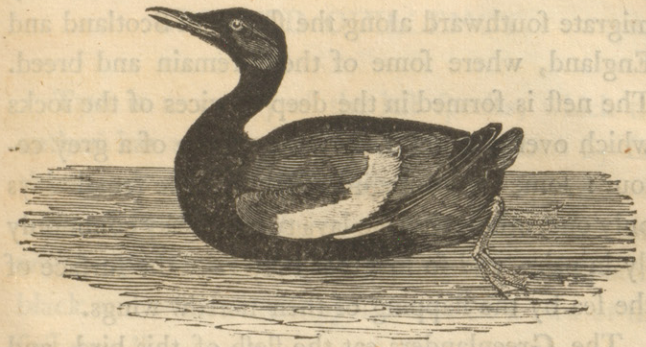
Ringuia.

This ſpecies weighs about nineteen ounces, and meaſures in length ſixteen inches, and in breadth twenty-ſix. The bill is ſhaped like that of the laſt, and is about two inches and a half long: the ſtroke formed by the divided feathers behind the eye, is duſky, on a white ground: the cheeks, fore part of the neck and breaſt, tips of the ſecondary quills, and the whole of the under parts, are white, except a few dull ſpots on the auriculars, and ſome freckles on the breaſt: the front and crown of the head, back of the neck, and the whole of the upper

parts, are duſky, inclining to lead-colour: the legs and feet duſky, bluſhed with red.

Some naturaliſts ſuſpect that the leſſer Guillemot is only the young of the foregoing ſpecies; but this is not yet aſcertained, neither is it known where they breed. They, however, ſeldom aſſociate with the Guillemots that breed on the Britiſh ſhores, which they viſit only during the winter ſeaſon, and almoſt all of them retire northward in the ſpring.

The bird from which the above drawing and deſcription were taken, was caught alive at Tynemouth, in the latter end of September, 1801: the tide had left it in a ſituation ſurrounded by rocks, upon the flat ſand, from which it could not raiſe itſelf to take flight. While the drawing was making, it ſat under a table trimming its feathers, and appeared perfectly at eaſe, and not the leaſt alarmed at the peeping curioſity of the children who ſurrounded it. When this buſineſs was finiſhed, it was taken and ſet down upon an open part of the ſhore, where it immediately began to waddle towards the water, with the whole leg and foot extended on the ground, and as ſoon as it reached its beloved element, it flapped its wings, darted through the ſurge, dived, and appeared in that place no more.



BLACK GUILLEMOT.

GREENLAND DOVE, SEA-TURTLE, OR TYSTE.

(*Colymbus Grylle*, Lin.—*Le petit Guillemot noir*, Buff.)

THE length of the Black Guillemot is about fourteen inches, breadth twenty-two, and its weight fourteen ounces. The bill is black, ſlender ſhaped, and pointed; the upper mandible ſlightly bent at the point: the inſide of the mouth red. The whole plumage is ſleek and gloſſy, and of a ſooty-coloured black, excepting a large patch of white on the coverts of each wing: its feathers appear all unwebbed, and look like ſilky hair: the legs and feet are red: claws black. In ſome of this ſpecies the whole plumage is black, in others the leſſer quills are tipped with white; and all thoſe that remain in the northern climates are ſaid to turn white in winter.

Theſe birds are found in great numbers in the North Sea, in Greenland, Iceland, Spitzbergen,

and the Fero Iſles, and when the winter ſets in, they migrate ſouthward along the ſhores of Scotand and England, where ſome of them remain and breed. The neſt is formed in the deep crevices of the rocks which overhang the ſea: the eggs are of a grey colour: ſome ornithologiſts aſſert that the fenale lays only one, others that ſhe lays two. They commonly fly in pairs, and ſo low that they raiſe the ſurface of the ſea by the flapping of their narrow wings.

The Greenlanders eat the fleſh of this brd, and uſe its ſkin for cloathing, and the legs as a bait for their fiſhing lines. Ray, Albin, Willoughby, and Edwards have named it the Greenland Dove, or Sea Turtle. In the Orkney Iſlands it is called the Tyſte.

The foregoing figure was taken from a drawing preſented to the author.



SPOTTED GUILLEMOT.

This is a variety of the laſt ſpecies, which the author has not ſeen. It is thus deſcribed by Latham:—"In this the plumage is in patches of white and black on the upper parts, and all beneath white. In Brunnich's bird the belly was ſpotted black and white: he ſuppoſed it to be a bird of the firſt year."

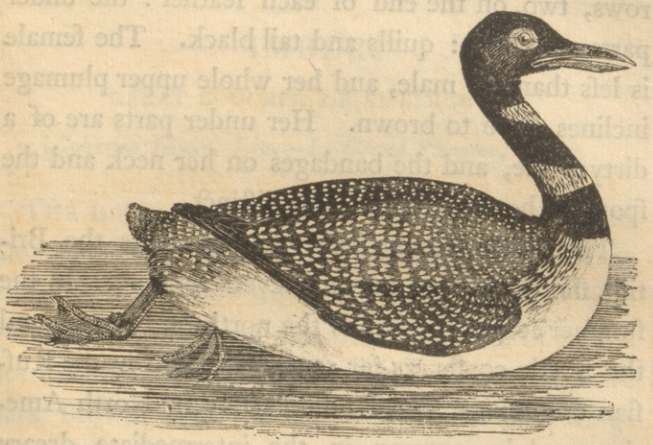
Latham enumerates ſeveral other varieties of this ſpecies of birds, but as they have not been obſerved to viſit the Britiſh Iſles, they do not come within the ſcope of this work. There are, however, others which are occaſionally met with in this country, but whether the differences may not be owing to age or ſex, is not yet aſcertained. One of theſe, preſented in October, 1802, by the Rev. H. Cotes, of Bedington, differed from the leſſer Guillemot in its bill's being much ſhorter, meaſuring only about an inch and a half on the ridge of the upper mandible, and in having the hinder part of the head ſurrounded by a continuation of the white feathers which cover the cheeks, but mixed with duſky ſpots.



OF THE DIVERS.

THE bills are ſtrong, ſtraight, and pointed: the upper mandibles the longeſt; the edges of each bending inwards: noſtrils linear, the upper part divided by a ſmall cutaneous appendage: tongue long, pointed, and ſerrated on each ſide near the baſe: thighs placed far backward: legs thin and flat, and extended horizontally: the toes, four in number; the exterior the longeſt; the back one ſmall, and joined to the interior by a thin membrane: tail ſhort, conſiſting of twenty feathers. Theſe birds are broad, flat, and long bodied, and ſwim in a ſquat poſition on the water. Ornithologiſts enumerate eight ſpecies of this genus, ſix of which, beſides ſome doubtful varieties, frequent the Britiſh ſhores.





GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.

LOON, IMBRIM, OR EMBERGOOSE.

(*Colymbus glacialis*, Lin.—*L'Imbrim*, Buff.)

THE Great Diver weighs about ſixteen pounds; meaſures three feet ſix inches in length, and four feet eight in breadth. The bill is black, four inches and a half long, and ſtrongly formed: the head is of a deep black, gloſſed with green and purple reflections: the neck appears as if wrapped obliquely round with a bandage of the ſame colours as the head; the feathers in the ſpaces between are white, ſtreaked down the middle with narrow black lines; the ſides of the breaſt are marked in the ſame manner: the whole of the upper parts are black, ſpotted with white: the ſpots on the ſcapulars are the largeſt, and of an oblong ſquare ſhape, placed in

rows, two on the end of each feather: the under parts are white: quills and tail black. The female is leſs than the male, and her whole upper plumage inclines more to brown. Her under parts are of a dirty white, and the bandages on her neck and the ſpots on her body are not ſo diſtinct.

This ſpecies of the Diver ſeldom viſits the Britiſh ſhores, except in very ſevere winters. In the ſummer ſeaſon it inhabits the north of Europe, and the Arctic coaſts, as far as the river Ob in the Ruſſian dominions, and Hudſon's Bay in North America, and is common in the intermediate dreary countries in the ſame latitudes. They ſeldom quit the ſea, or are ſeen inland, except at the breeding ſeaſon, when, for the purpoſes of ovation and incubation, they repair to the freſh-water lakes in the Fero Iſles, Spitzbergen, Iceland, Greenland, &c. on the ſhores and ſmall iſlets of which they make their neſts and rear their young. The female is ſaid to lay only two eggs, which are of a dirty white or ſtone colour: when ſhe quits her neſt, ſhe flies very high, and on her return darts down upon it in an oblique direction.

The natives of ſome of the northern countries dreſs or tan the ſkins of theſe birds, as well as thoſe of ſeveral other water-fowls, and make them into caps, pelices, and other warm garments.

The foregoing figure was taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum.

IMBER.

GREAT DOUCKER, OR EMBERGOOSE.

(*Colymbus Immer*, Lin.—*Le Grand Plongeon*, Buff.)

THE Imber meaſures from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail nearly three feet, and from tip to tip of the wings three feet eight inches. The bill is four inches and a quarter long, and of a dark horn colour. The upper parts of the plumage are dark brown, each feather on the back and wings edged with light browniſh aſh: the front and crown of the head, and hinder part of the neck, are ſlightly broken with ſpots of the ſame light browniſh aſh-colour: the cheeks and ſides of the neck, to the breaſt, are ſpeckled with brown: near to the lower part of the neck the brown colour ſpreads forward towards the front, which, as well as the throat, is white: the breaſt and belly are alſo of a gloſſy white: vent mottled with brown. The quills and tail are duſky, but the feathers on the latter are edged with dirty white: the legs are of a dark dingy lead colour. The plumage of the female is leſs diſtinct in its colours, being nearly of a dull brown on the upper parts, and dull white beneath.

This ſpecies is of nearly the ſame manners and habits as the laſt: they are both excellent divers and fiſhers, and are inhabitants of the ſame northern countries; but this is oftener met with farther

ſouthward, towards Scotland and its numerous adjacent iſles. It is alſo ſpread more abroad in other countries both in Europe, Aſia, and America. * Latham deſcribes it as being common in Switzerland, where it is known by the name of Fluder. He ſays "it makes its neſt among the reeds and flags, and places it in the water; ſo that it is continually wet, as in ſome of the Grebe genus. It utters a loud ſhrill cry." He adds that it is "ſometimes taken twenty yards deep under water, viz. with a net or iron hook baited with a fiſh:" and Buffon alſo aſſerts, that "it dives to very great depths, and ſwims under water to the diſtance of an hundred paces without aſcending to take breath: a portion of air included in its dilated wind-pipe ſupplies its reſpiration during this interval."

* A fine ſpecimen was preſented by Admiral Byron, when governor of Newfoundland, to Mr Tunſtall.



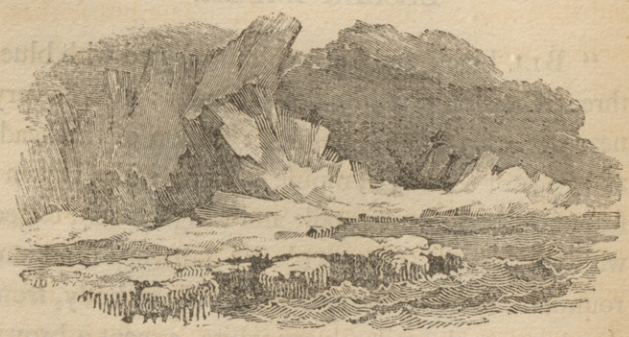


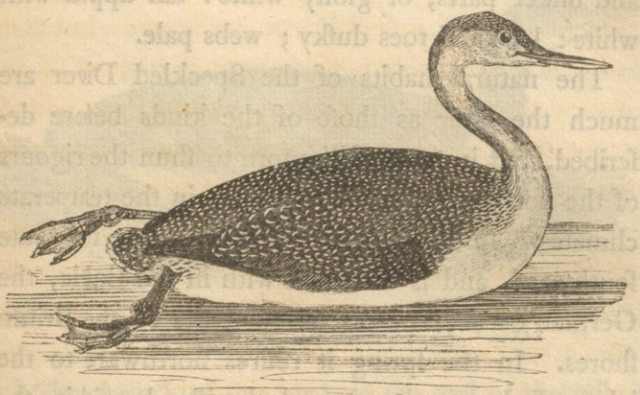
LESSER IMBER.

" BILL black and horn-colour, tinged with blue, three inches long, pointed and ſlender: noſtrils very near the baſe: tongue pointed: crown of the head, and back of the neck, mouſe colour: irides brown: ſcapulars, back, rump, tail, and wings, black, edged with grey: quill feathers black: tail very ſhort and rounded. The whole under ſide of the body, from the throat to the tail, ſilvery white, except a brown bar which croſſes the vent: inner coverts of the wings white: legs remarkably flat, and placed cloſe

to the tail; they are black and grey, with a blue tinge: the feet are very large, webs entire and fleſh-colour. Length two feet one inch, extent of the wings three feet two inches; weight three pounds eight ounces. This bird was ſhot on Windermere Lake, in Weſtmoreland, in December, 1794."

This work is indebted for the above draving and deſcription, to Geo. Strickland, Eſq. of Ripon, who further adds,—"As this ſpecies of the Colymbus much reſembles the Imber in the colour of its plumage, I have given it the name of the *Leſſer* Imber, as in weight and ſize it is one-third leſs. I have not met with any deſcription of it, and the ſpecimen now in my poſſeſſion is the only one I have ſeen."





FIRST SPECKLED DIVER.

SPRAT LOON, GREATEST-TAILED DIVER, OR SPECKLED LOON.

(*Colymbus ſtellatus*, Lin.—*Le petit Plongeon*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies generally weighs about two pounds and a half, and ſomewhat exceeds two feet in length, and three and a half in breadth. The bill is three inches long, of a light colour, and has rather a caſt upwards: the crown of the head and upper parts of the body are duſky, inclining to grey; and, excepting the hinder part of the neck, leſſer coverts and quills, which are plain, the reſt of the plumage is ſpeckled all over with ſmall white ſpots; thoſe on the ſcapulars and middle wing-coverts are the largeſt, and marked more diſtinctly on the margins of each feather, near to their tips. The fore part of the neck is of an aſh-colour: cheeks, chin, throat,

and under parts, of gloſſy white: tail tipped with white: legs and toes duſky; webs pale.

The natural habits of the Speckled Diver are much the ſame as thoſe of the kinds before deſcribed, but it ſeems ſtill more to ſhun the rigours of the north, and remains longer in the temperate climates. In the winter ſeaſon it keeps its route ſouthward, and is then met with in the Baltic, the German ocean, and on various parts of the Britiſh ſhores. In the ſpring it retires northward to the lakes of the continent, and the iſlands within the Arctic circle, to breed and rear its young. The female makes her neſt in the graſs, near the edge of the water, and lays two eggs of a longiſh oval ſhape, larger than thoſe of a Hen: they are of a dingy ſtone-colour, ſpotted with black.

The foregoing figure was done from a ſtuffed ſpecimen.



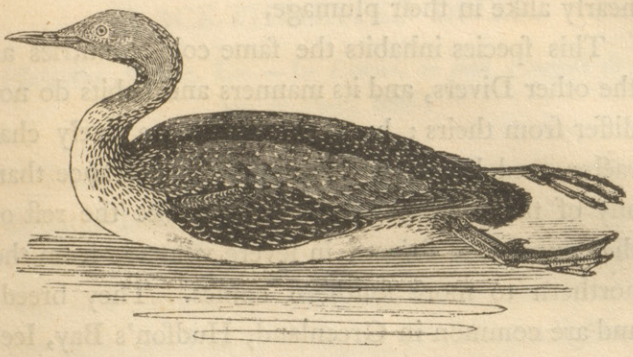


SECOND SPECKLED DIVER.

THE length of this bird, to the end of the tail, is two feet four inches, and rather more to the end of the longeſt or outſide toe; the extended wings are three feet four inches, from tip to tip; and it weighs three pounds and a quarter. The bill, from the tip to the brow, is two inches and an eighth, and a little more than three inches to the corners of the mouth: both mandibles are white, faintly bluſhed with a livid or purple caſt, except on the ridge of the upper one, where it is of a dark horn-colour, fading off lighter towards the tip, which is entirely white: the irides are of a clear brown. The head and hinder part of the neck have a hoary dark aſh-coloured appearance, at a little diſtance; but on a nearer view, the feathers on the crown and brow, which are very ſmall, are dark in the middle, and diſtinctly edged with light grey; thoſe from the nape downwards are larger, but the edges are leſs defined. The ſides of the mouth, about the

eyes, alſo the cheeks and throat, are white, but are partially dulled or freckled by a mixture of numerous ſmall browniſh aſh-coloured ſpots: the fore part of the neck is darkened with cloſer ſet and larger ſpots, inclining more to brown. All the upper parts of the plumage are of a deep or black brown, and except the greater coverts and the quills, are ſpeckled all over with oblong oval white ſpots, placed on the ſide of each feather, near the tip. The whole under ſide of the body is white, but croſſed by a brown bar at the vent. The tail is brown, very ſhort, and of a rounded or fan ſhape: the legs on the inſides, down the ſhins, and on the edges behind, are white: the middle of the webs, the two inner toes, and the terminating joint of the outer one, together with all the nails, are the ſame: all the other parts of the legs and feet are duſky.

A pair of theſe birds were ſhot on the Tyne, at Newcaſtle, in the month of January, by Mr Pollock. They differed ſomewhat from the preceding ſpecies, but very little, excepting in weight, from each other. This figure and deſcription were taken from the larger. The ſmaller, which probably was the female, weighed only two pounds and a half. Although a particular chapter has been allotted to theſe birds, the author does not ſuppoſe them to be a diſtinct ſpecies from the preceding, which was probably a very old female.



RED-THROATED DIVER.

RED-THROATED LOON, OR RAIN GOOSE.

(*Colymbus ſeptentrionalis*, Lin.—*Le Plongeon à gorge rouge*, Buff.)

THIS bird meaſures three feet five inches in breadth, two feet to the end of the tail, and four inches more to the end of the toes, and weighs nearly three pounds. The bill is dark coloured, and leſs than that of the Speckled Diver: the irides reddiſh: head and ſides of the neck bluiſh lead colour: throat ruſty red: the hinder part of the neck from the nape towards the ſhoulders and ſides of the breaſt, is ſtreaked downwards with duſky and white. The upper parts of the plumage are of a greyiſh duſky colour, thinly ſprinkled all over with ſmall white ſpots, which on the coverts and ſcapulars aſſume a more ſtreaked or lengthened form: the under parts are white: the legs dark,

with a reddiſh tinge. The male and female are nearly alike in their plumage.

This ſpecies inhabits the ſame cold countries as the other Divers, and its manners and habits do not differ from theirs; but it is of a more lively character, and has a more ſprightly appearance than any of the preceding kinds: alſo, like the reſt of the genus, it is driven, in ſevere winters, from the northern to more ſouthern climes. They breed, and are common in Greenland, Hudſon's Bay, Iceland, the Shetland and Orkney Iſles, &c. The female makes her neſt, which is compoſed of moſs and herbage, lined with a little of her own down, on the very edge of the ſhore: ſhe lays two eggs, which are nearly of the ſize of thoſe of a hen, but of a longer ſhape, and of a dingy bluiſh white, thinly marked with duſky ſpots. They live in pairs with inconceivable affection, run ſwiftly upon the water, dive immediately, but are very aukward upon the land, from which they riſe with great difficulty. Their flight, however, when once on the wing, is both ſtrong and ſwift: they riſe to a great height, making at intervals a diſagreeable croaking, or a loud howling cry.



BLACK-THROATED DIVER.

(*Colymbus Arcticus*, Lin.—*Le Lumme, ou petit Plongeon de la mer du Nord*, Buff.)

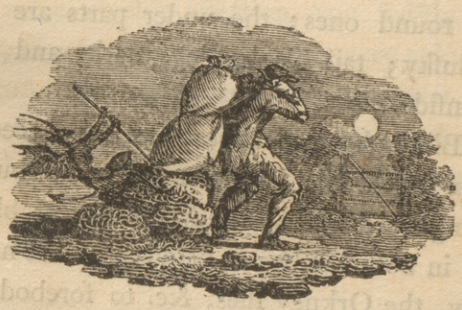
This bird is ſomewhat bigger than the Red-throated Diver, and differs from it in its plumage; but in every other reſpect they are very much alike. The fore parts of the head, the throat, and front of the neck, are black, changing in different lights to gloſſy purple or green: on the ſides of the neck this long black patch is bordered by a ſtripe of black and white oblong ſpots, pointing downwards, and falling over each ſide of the breaſt. The hinder part of the head and neck are aſh-coloured: upper parts of the plumage black, marked on the ſcapulars with ſquare white ſpots, and on the wing coverts with ſmaller round ones: the under parts are white: quills duſky; tail black; legs dark, and reddiſh on the inſide.

The Black-throated Diver, like the preceding, is common in all the Arctic regions, and but rarely viſits England. It has the ſame diſagreeable cries, which, in both kinds, are believed by the natives of Norway, the Orkney Iſles, &c. to forebode heavy rains or bad weather. Their ſkins are dreſſed, and made into caps, hoods, &c. and are much eſteemed as a covering for the head and breaſt in the rigorous climates in which they are found, the great thick-

neſs of the feathers rendering them very fit for that purpoſe.

By many naturaliſts it is thought that this differs from the former bird in ſex only. *

* A bird, ſuſpected to be of this ſpecies, was caught in the month of March, in a pool near Dukesfield, Northumberland, and preſented to the author, by Mr Thomas Crawhall: it wanted the black patch on the throat; its tail, like the Firſt Grey Speckled Diver's, was tipped with white, and its legs were marked like thoſe of the ſecond; but in meaſurement it exceeded the latter, being two feet two inches from the bill to the tail.



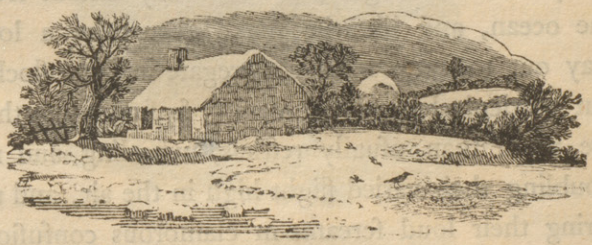
OF THE TERNS, OR SEA SWALLOWS.

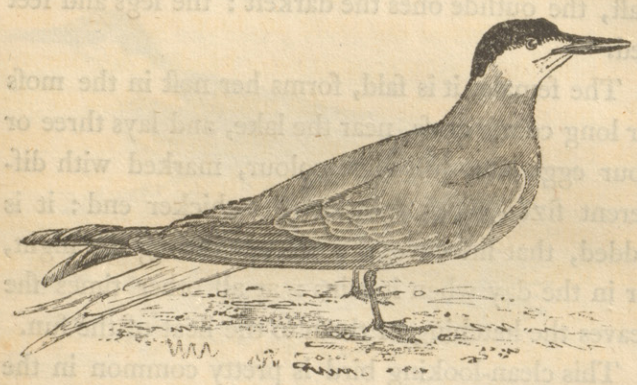
BIRDS of this genus have ſtraight, ſlender-ſhaped, and pointed bills: noſtrils linear: tongue ſlender and ſharp: their legs are ſmall, the webs deeply ſcallopped from the toe ends to the middle, and the back toe ſmall: the wings are very long, and the tail forked.* Theſe birds continue long on the wing, and, in their quick and circling evolutions, they riſe and ſink in the air, or glide along near the ſurface of the waters, ſometimes ſnapping at the inſects in their way, or, ſuddenly checking their courſe, darting down upon their finny prey, which they ſwallow in the aſcent, without delaying their progreſs. Their common reſidence is the ſea-ſhores, or the mouths of large rivers, whoſe courſes, however, they ſometimes traverſe nearly to their riſe. They alſo viſit loughs and lakes very diſtant from the ocean, and likewiſe make excurſions a long way out to ſea. They congregate in large flocks, but particularly in the breeding ſeaſon, when they are more than uſually reſtleſs, wheeling and redoubling their varied flight high in the air, and uttering their loud ſcreams in clamorous confuſion. Some of the ſpecies are deſcribed as breeding on

* In the young of ſome ſpecies, the tails are nearly even at the ends.

the ſhores, and depoſiting their two eggs upon the bare rock; others lay three or four eggs in a hole made in the dry ſand; and ſome kinds neſtle among the reeds and ruſhes in the marſhy borders of the lakes which they frequent. The young ones keep the neſt a good while after they have been hatched, not offering to leave it until their wings have attained ſufficient length and ſtrength to enable them to fly with eaſe and ſafety.

One kind or another of theſe birds is met with by navigators in almoſt every part of the world. Latham enumerates twenty-three ſpecies, beſides varieties: five of the former and one of the latter are Britiſh.





COMMON TERN.

GREAT TERN, KIRMEW, OR SEA-SWALLOW.

(*Sterna Hirundo*, Lin.—*La grande Hirondelle-de-mer*, Buff.)

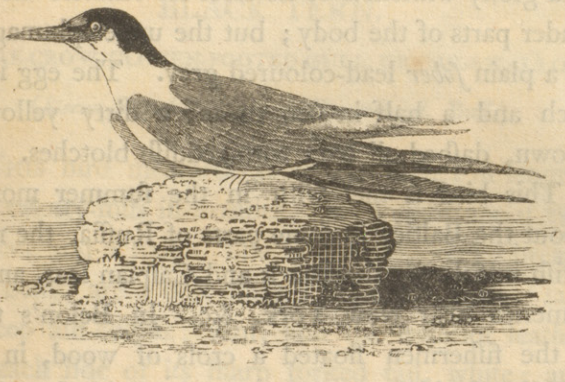
THIS bird meaſures above fourteen inches in length, thirty in breadth, and weighs more than four ounces. The bill is of a crimſon colour, tipped with black, and about two inches and a quarter in length: the head is capped with a longiſh black patch, which extends over the eyes, and ends in a point below the nape of the neck: the throat, cheeks, neck, and the whole of the under parts are white: the tail, which is long, and greatly forked, is alſo white, except the two outſide feathers, which are black on their exterior webs; but in flying, theſe forks are frequently cloſed ſo as to look like a ſingle feather. The upper part of the plumage is

of a fine pale lead colour: the quills are of a deeper caſt, the outſide ones the darkeſt: the legs and feet red.

The female, it is ſaid, forms her neſt in the moſs or long coarſe graſs, near the lake, and lays three or four eggs of a dull olive colour, marked with different ſized black ſpots at the thicker end: it is added, that ſhe covers them only during the night, or in the day when it rains: at all other times ſhe leaves the hatching of them to the heat of the ſun.

This clean-looking bird is pretty common in the ſummer months on the ſea-coaſts, rivers and lakes of the Britiſh Iſles, and is alſo met with in various parts of Europe, Aſia, and America. It migrates ſouthward to the Mediterranean, and to the Madeira and Canary Iſles, and northward as far as Spitzbergen and Greenland.





LESSER TERN,

OR, LESSER SEA-SWALLOW.

(*Sterna minuta*, Lin.—*La petite Hirondelle de Mer*, Buff.)

THE Leſſer Tern meaſures about eight inches in length, and nineteen in breadth, and weighs a little more than two ounces. It looks like the former ſpecies in miniature—is equally, if not more delicately elegant in its plumage and general appearance—and its manners and habits are much the ſame; but it is not nearly ſo numerous, or ſo widely diſperſed. It differs from the Common Tern in having the black patch on its head divided by a white ſpot on the front of its brow, in the tail being wholly white, and, in proportion to the ſize of the bird, much ſhorter or leſs forked, and in the bill and the feet being more inclined to orange

or yellow. Nothing can exceed the clean, clear, and gloſſy whiteneſs of its cloſe-ſet feathers on the under parts of the body; but the upper plumage is of a plain *ſober* lead-coloured grey. The egg is an inch and a half in length, of a dirty yellowiſh brown, daſhed all over with reddiſh blotches.

This bird is met with in the ſummer months about the Baltic, in ſome parts of Ruſſia, the river Irtiſh in Siberia, the Black and Caſpian ſeas, and in America near New York, &c. In Belon's time "the fiſhermen floated a croſs of wood, in the middle of which was faſtened a ſmall fiſh for a bait, with limed twigs ſtuck to the four corners, on which the bird darting, was entangled by the wings."



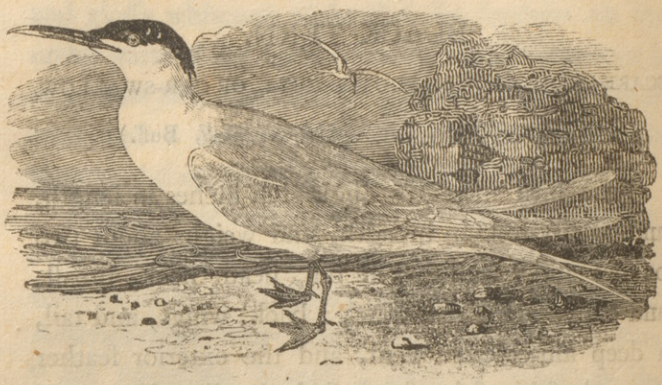
BLACK TERN.

SCARE-CROW, CLOVEN-FOOTED GULL, OR CAR-SWALLOW.

(*Sterna fiſſipedes*, Lin.—*L'Epouvantail*, Buff.)

THIS bird meaſures about ten inches in length, and twenty-four in breadth, and weighs about two ounces and a half. The bill, head, neck, breaſt, and belly, are a dull black: back, wings, and tail, a deep aſh-colour: vent, and the exterior feather on each ſide of its ſharp forked tail, white; and in the male there is a white ſpot on the throat. The legs and feet are a duſky red, the webs much depreſſed in the middle.

The Black Tern is of a ſize between that of the laſt two. Like them it frequents the ſea-ſhores in ſummer; but its habits and manners are ſomewhat different: it has a ſhriller cry, does not aſſociate with them, and ſeems rather to prefer the rivers, fens, marſhes, and lakes inland, to the ſea. It breeds and rears its young among the reeds and ruſhes in the former places, and is ſaid to lay three or four eggs of a dirty greeniſh colour, ſpotted and encircled about the middle with black. It feeds on beetles, maggots, and other inſects, as well as on ſmall fiſhes; and, like the reſt of the genus, is very noiſy, clamorous, and reſtleſs. Voyagers and ornithologiſts ſay it is met with in Hudſon's Bay, Newfoundland, and Iceland, and that it is common in Siberia, and the ſalt lakes in the deſarts of Tartary.



SANDWICH TERN.

(*Sandvicencis*, Latham.)

A PAIR of theſe birds, male and female, were ſhot on the Fern Iſlands, on the coaſt of Northumberland, in July, 1802, from the former of which this figure was taken.* They meaſured two feet nine inches from tip to tip of the wings: the bills were tipped with yellow: the black feathers which capped and adorned their heads were elongated behind, forming a kind of peaked creſt, which over-

* Theſe birds, as well as ſpecimens of nearly the whole of the different kinds which breed on the Fern Iſles, were, after great trouble and riſk, ſhot there, expreſsly for the uſe of this work, by Major Shore and Lieutenant Henry Forſter Gibſon, of the 4th Dragoons: and the author takes this opportunity of expreſſing the high ſenſe of gratitude he feels to thoſe gentlemen, for the facilities they have given to his labours.

hung the nape and hinder part of the neck: the feathers of the fore part of the neck and breaſt, when ruffled up, appeared delicately and faintly bluſhed with red. In other reſpects they correſponded ſo nearly with Mr Latham's accurate deſcription, that to attempt giving any other is needleſs.—"Length eighteen inches: bill two inches; colour black with the tip horn colour: tongue half the length of the bill: irides hazel: forehead, crown, hind head, and ſides above the eyes, black: the reſt of the head, neck, under parts of the body and tail, white; the back and wings pale hoary lead colour: the firſt five quills hoary black, the inner webs deeply margined with white; the ſixth like the others, but much paler; the reſt of the quills like the back: the tail is forked, the outer feather ſix inches and a quarter in length; the wings reach beyond it: legs and claws black: the under part of the feet duſky red." "Some ſpecimens have the top of the head dotted with white." "In young birds the upper parts are much clouded with brown; and the whole of the top of the head greatly mixed with white: but this is not peculiar, as the young of other Terns with black heads are in the ſame ſtate." "It is pretty common on the Suffolk and Kentiſh coaſts in the ſummer months, breeds there in the month of June, is ſuppoſed to lay its eggs upon the rocks, and to hatch them about the middle of July." He adds, "Whether

theſe birds only viſit us at uncertain ſeaſons, or have hitherto paſſed unnoticed among other Terns, we know not; but believe that this has not yet been recorded as a Britiſh ſpecies." "They generally make their appearance in the neighbourhood of Romney in Kent, about the middle of April, and take their departure in the beginning of September."



Sterna nævia, Lin.—*La Guifette*, Buff.

LATHAM ſays this bird is in "length eleven inches and a half. Bill duſky: back part of the head and nape black, edged with rufous brown: the eye half ſurrounded at the back part with a black creſcent: the reſt of the head, neck, and under parts, white: back and wings of a bluiſh brown, the margins of the feathers paler: the outward part of the wing more inclined to blue grey: the wings exceed the tail in length; the laſt very little forked: legs duſky brown." He adds, "This by authors has been conſidered as a ſpecies, but is, no doubt, a young bird merely of the Sandwich Tern."

Buffon gives a figure, and deſcribes this bird as common on the coaſt of Picardy, and frequently ſeen flying on the rivers Seine and Loire: that it is of a middle ſize between the Greater and Leſſer Tern, but differs from them in ſome particulars in its habits and œconomy, viz: that it feeds more upon inſects, flies, &c., is not ſo clamorous as the Greater Tern, does not lay its eggs on the naked ſand, but makes its neſt in the marſhes with a few dried herbs, in a tuft of graſs or moſs, in ſome inſulated hillock, and that it ſits upon its eggs cloſely (generally three in number) till the young are hatched.

BROWN TERN.

(*Sterna nigra*, Lin. *Sterna Fuſca*, Ray.—*Brown Tern*, Willoughby. *Brown Gull*, Pennant.)

"THE whole underſide white; the upper brown; the wings partly brown, partly aſh-colour: the head black: the tail not forked. Theſe birds fly in companies."

This ſhort and imperfect account is all that ornithologiſts have been enabled to give of this doubtful ſpecies, which has found its way into notice merely from the communications of Mr Johnſon * to Mr Ray, copied by the latter into his Synopſis of Birds, &c.

* Mr R. Johnſon, the correſpondent, friend, and aſſiſtant of the immortal Ray, was vicar of Brignal in Yorkſhire. He died there on the 7th of May, 1695, aged 66 years.



OF THE GULL.

The bill is ſtrong and ſtraight, but bent downwards at the point: the noſtrils are pervious, oblong, and narrow, and are placed in the middle; the lower mandible has an angular prominence on the underſide, which tapers towards, and forms its tip: the tongue is a little cloven. The body is cloathed with a great quantity of down and feathers, which, together with the large head and long wings, give theſe birds an appearance of bulk, without a proportionate weight. Their legs are ſmall, naked above the knees: feet webbed, and the back toe detached, and very ſmall.

This genus, which ſome naturaliſts have deſcribed as conſiſting of about nineteen ſpecies, beſides a few varieties, is numerouſly diſperſed over every quarter of the known world, and is met with, at certain ſeaſons, in ſome parts, in ſuch multitudes, that the whole ſurface of the ground is covered with their dung; and their eggs are gathered by the inhabitants in prodigious quantities. They aſſemble together in a kind of ſtraggling mixed flocks, conſiſting of various kinds, and greatly enliven the beach by their irregular movements, whilſt their ſhrill cries are deadened by the noiſe of the waves, or nearly drowned in the roarings of the ſurge. They occaſionally take a wide range over

the ocean, and are met with by navigators many leagues diſtant from the land. Their plumage, which in each individual of the ſpecies varies with its age,* is clean and agreeable, but their carriage and gait are ungraceful, and their character is ſtigmatiſed as cowardly, cruel, lazy, thieviſh, and voracious; for which reaſon they have by ſome been called the vulture of the ſea: and it is certain [though this trait is not peculiar to them] that the ſtronger will rob the weaker kinds, and that they are all greedy and gluttonous, almoſt indiſcriminately devouring whatever comes in their way, whether of freſh or putrid ſubſtances, until they are obliged to diſgorge their overloaded ſtomachs. On the contrary, they are able to endure hunger a long while: Buffon mentions one that lived nine days without taſting food.

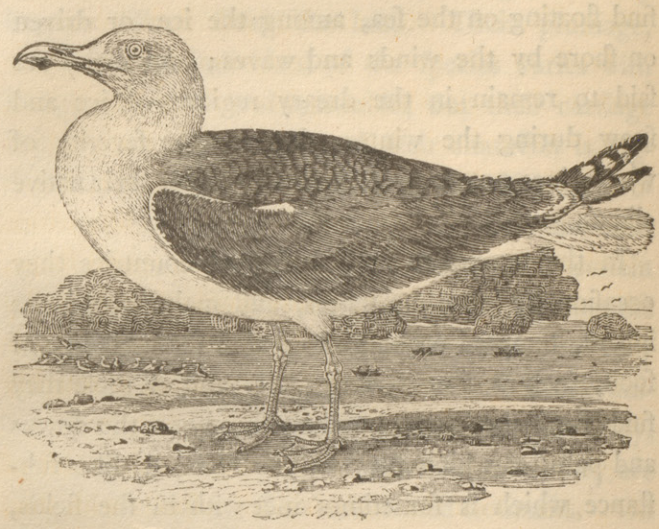
Some ornithologiſts divide this genus of birds into two kinds, calling the larger Gulls, and the leſſer Mews, and claſs with the former kind thoſe which meaſure eighteen or twenty inches from the point of the bill to the end of the tail; and with the latter all thoſe which are of leſs dimenſions. The larger kinds are not ſo common in the warm, as they are in the cold climates, where they remain to breed and rear their young, feeding chiefly upon

* Hence the confuſion which has ariſen among authors and nomenclators, reſpecting this numerous tribe of birds.

the rotting carcaſes of dead whales, &c. which they find floating on the ſea, among the ice, or driven on ſhore by the winds and waves; and many are ſaid to remain in the dreary regions of ice and ſnow during the winter, the extreme ſeverity of which does not compel them all to quit their native climes.

In the temperate and cultivated countries they occaſionally leave the ſhores, and make excurſions inland, tempted probably to ſearch for a change of food, ſuch as worms, ſlugs, &c. and of theſe they find, for a time, an abundant ſupply on the downs and paſtures which they viſit. The jelly-like ſubſtance which is ſometimes met with in the fields, and known by the name of *ſtar-ſhot*, is believed to be the remains of half-digeſted worms, &c. which they have diſcharged from their over-loaded ſtomachs.





BLACK-BACKED GULL,

OR, GREAT BLACK AND WHITE GULL.

(*Larus marinus*, Lin.—*Le Goiland noir*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies, which is the largeſt of the tribe, meaſures twenty-nine inches in length, and five feet nine inches in breadth, and weighs nearly five pounds. The bill is pale yellow, very firm, ſtrong, and thick, and nearly four inches long from the tip to the corners of the mouth: the projecting angle on the lower mandible is red, or orange, with a black ſpot in the middle, on each ſide: the irides are yellow, and the edges of the eye-lids orange. The upper part of the back and wings are black:

all the other parts of its plumage, and the tips of the quills, are white: the legs pale fleſh colour.

Gulls of this ſpecies are common in the northern parts of Europe, the rocky iſles of the North Sea, and in Greenland, but are only thinly ſcattered on the coaſts of England, where they, however, ſometimes remain to breed on the higheſt cliffs which overhang the ſea: their eggs are of a round ſhape, of a dark olive colour, thinly marked with duſky ſpots, and quite black at the thicker end. Their cry of kac, kac, kac, quickly repeated, is roughly hoarſe and diſagreeable.

Mr Pennant ſays, "I have ſeen on the coaſt of Angleſea a bird that agrees in all reſpects with this, except in ſize, in wanting the black ſpot on the bill, and in the colour of the legs, which in this are of a bright yellow: the extent of the wings is only four feet five: the length only twenty-two inches: the weight one pound and a half. This ſpecies, or perhaps variety, (for I dare not aſſert which) rambles far from the ſea, and has been ſhot at Bullſtrode, in Middleſex." One of this ſort was ſhot by Mr Latham on the Thames, near Dartford, and meaſured full two feet in length.



HERRING GULL.

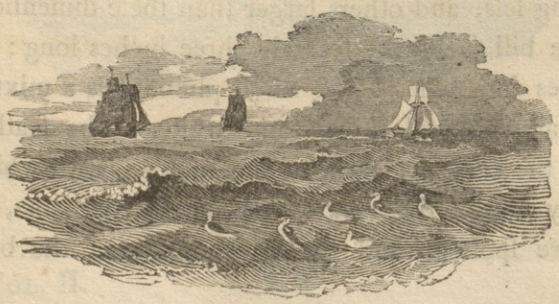
(*Larus fuſcus*, Lin.—*Le Goiland in manteau gris-brun, ou le Bourgmeſtre*, Buff.)

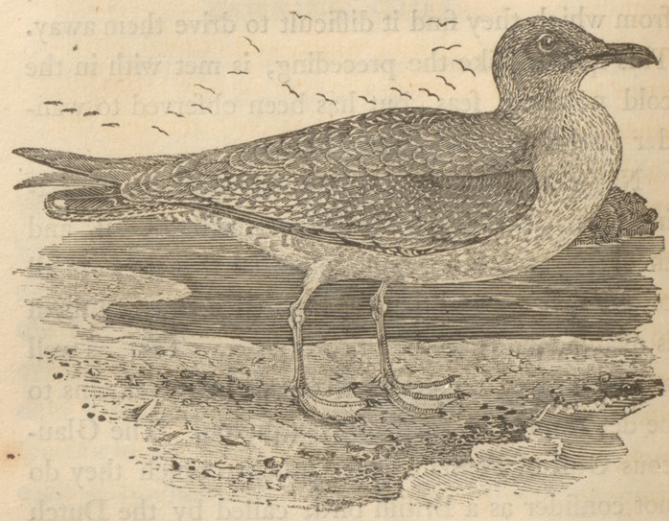
The weight of this bird exceeds thirty ounces; the length is about twenty-three inches, and the breadth fifty-two. The ſpot on the angular knob of the under mandible is deep orange; the reſt of the bill yellow: irides pale yellow; edges of the eye-lids red. The back and wing coverts are of a dark bluiſh aſh-colour: the firſt five quills in moſt ſpecimens are black on the upper parts, and have each a roundiſh white ſpot on the outer webs near the tips; others are marked differently on the quills: legs pale fleſh colour. The back and wings of ſome of this ſpecies, which are ſuppoſed to be the young not arrived at full plumage, are aſh-coloured, ſpotted with brown: the old ones are ſaid to turn quite white.

The haunts, manners, and habits, as well as the general appearance of this Gull, are very ſimilar to thoſe of the preceding ſpecies, but this is much more common on the Britiſh ſhores: they make their neſts of dry graſs on the projecting ledges of the rocks, and lay three eggs of a dull whitiſh colour, ſpotted with black. They have obtained their name from purſuing the ſhoals of herrings, and preying upon thoſe fiſh. Fiſhermen deſcribe them as the

conſtant, bold, intruding attendants on their nets, from which they find it difficult to drive them away. This ſpecies, like the preceding, is met with in the cold northern ſeas, but has been obſerved to wander farther into ſouthern climates.

Naturaliſts are divided in their opinions reſpecting the Black-backed Gull, the Herring Gull, and the Wagel: it is by ſome ſuſpected that they are all of one ſpecies, and that the difference between them is owing merely to their age and ſex. This, as well as much more reſpecting the Gull tribe, remains to be determined by further inveſtigation. The Glaucous Gull of Pennant and Latham, which they do not conſider as a Britiſh bird, called by the Dutch Burgermeiſter, or Burgomaſter, and figured in the Planches Enluminées under the name Goiland cendrée, is alſo one of the number involved in the ſame doubt, and is probably not a ſpecies diſtinct from the Herring Gull; and Latham has the ſame doubt reſpecting the Silvery Gull.





WAGEL.

GREAT GREY GULL, GRISARD, OR BURGO-MASTER.

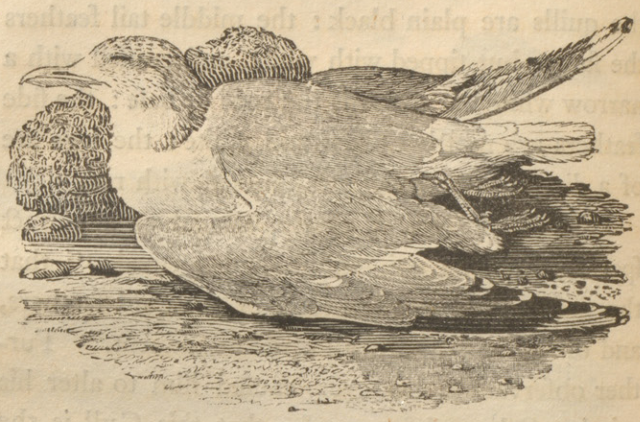
(*Larus nævius*, Lin.—*Le Goiland varié ou le Grifard*, Buff.)

THIS Gull is about two feet in length, and five in breadth, and weighs nearly three pounds; but the individuals vary much in their ſize, ſome of them being leſs, and others larger than theſe dimenſions. The bill is black, ſcarcely three inches long: the irides dark blue. The whole plumage is a mixture of aſh-coloured brown and white. The feathers on the back are dark in the middle, with whitiſh grey edges: the wing coverts nearly the ſame, but more ſpotted; and the under parts of the body

have a much lighter and more mixed appearance: the quills are plain black: the middle tail feathers the ſame, but tipped with white, and croſſed with a narrow white bar towards the root or baſe: the ſide feathers are mottled black and white: the legs are of a dirty white, ſometimes bluſhed with red.

Mr Pennant treated of the Wagel as a diſtinct ſpecies, from an opinion he had formed, "that the firſt colours of the irides, of the quill feathers, and of the tail, are in all birds permanent." Further obſervation, however, cauſed him to alter his mind. Other obſervers ſay that this Gull is the young of the Herring Gull, and that it does not change its grey plumage until the fourth year.





COMMON GULL.

COMMON SEA-MALL, OR MEW.

(*Larus Canus*, Lin.—*La Grande Mouette cendrée*, Buff.)

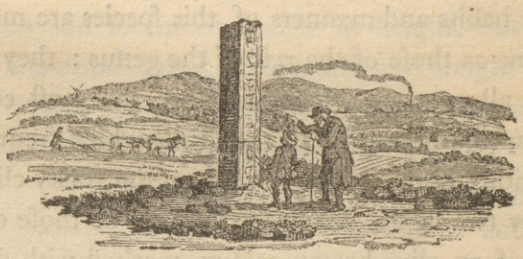
THE Common Gull generally meaſures between ſixteen and ſeventeen inches in length, thirty-ſix, and ſometimes more, in breadth, and weighs about one pound. The bill is pale yellow, tinged with green, * and an inch and three-quarters long: irides hazel: edges of the eye-lids red: the upper part of the head and cheeks, and the hinder part and ſides of the neck, are ſtreaked with duſky ſpots: the

* Buffon ſays, the bluiſh bill and feet, always obſervable in this ſpecies, ought to diſtinguiſh it from every other, in which the feet are generally of a fleſh-colour, more or leſs vermillion or livid.

back, ſcapulars, and wings are of a fine pale bluiſh grey: the throat, rump, tail, and all the under parts are pure white: the firſt two quills are black, with a pretty large white ſpot near the tips; the next four are tipped with black, and the ſecondaries largely with white: the legs are greeniſh, or a dirty white. This is nearly the deſcription of an individual ſpecimen; but from the number which the author has examined, it is certain that theſe birds vary in the markings of the head, quills, tail, and in the colour of the bills and feet, hardly two of them being found exactly alike. Some have the head quite white; ſome the quills plain black at the ends; others the tail tipped with black, and the feet bluſhed with red, green, or blue. Their plumage and look altogether is very clean and agreeable.

The habits and manners of this ſpecies are much the ſame as thoſe of the reſt of the genus: they are ſpread all over the globe, and are the moſt common and numerous of all the Gulls which frequent the Britiſh ſhores. They breed on the rocky cliffs: and lay two eggs, nearly of the ſize of thoſe of a Hen, of an olive brown colour, marked with dark reddiſh blotches, or irregular ſpots. At the mouths of the larger rivers, they are ſeen in numbers, picking up the animal ſubſtances which are caſt on ſhore, or come floating down with the ebbing tide: for this kind of food they watch with a quick eye, and

it is curious to obſerve how ſuch as are near the breakers will mount upon the ſurface of the water, and run ſplaſhing towards the ſummit of the wave to catch the object of their purſuit. This ſpecies alſo, at particular ſeaſons, reſorts to the inland parts of the country to feed upon worms, &c. Some perſons who live near the ſea commonly eat this, as well as various other kinds of Gulls, which they deſcribe as being good food, when they have undergone a certain ſweetening proceſs before cooking, ſuch as burying them in freſh mould for a day, or waſhing them in vinegar.



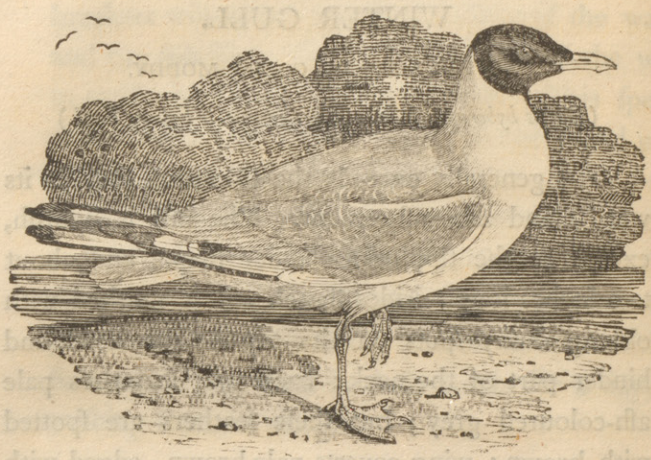
WINTER GULL.

WINTER MEW, OR CODDY MODDY.

(*Larus hybernus*, Lin.—*La Mouette d'hyver*, Buff.)

THIS generally exceeds the Common Gull in its weight and admeaſurement. The bill is lightiſh, except at the tip, of a ſlender ſhape, and about two inches long: irides hazel. It is marked with oblong duſky ſpots on the top of the head and hinder part of the neck: back and ſcapulars pale aſh-coloured grey; but theſe feathers are ſpotted with brown: wing coverts pale brown, edged with dingy white; the firſt quill is black, the ſix following more or leſs black at the ends; the others tipped with white: the tail is croſſed with a broad black bar near the end: all the other parts of the plumage are white: legs bluiſh dirty white. Mr Pennant aſſerts that this is only a young bird, not a ſpecies diſtinct from the Common Gull; and he alſo differs from Linnæus in his opinion that it is the ſame as the *Larus tridactylus*, or *Tarrock*.





BLACK-HEADED GULL.

BLACK-CAP, OR PEWIT GULL.

(*Larus ridibundus*, Lin.—*La Mouette rieuſe a pattos rouges*, Briſſon.—*La Mouette rieuſe*, Buff.)

THIS pretty looking bird meaſures fifteen inches in length, thirty-ſix in breadth, and weighs about two ounces. The bill is of rather a ſlender make, and of a full red colour: the irides hazel: edges of the eye-lids red: head black; but in ſome ſpecimens it inclines to a mouſe-coloured brown. The back and wings are of a delicate pale lead, or aſh-colour; the neck, tail, and all the under parts, pure white. The firſt quills in the ſpecimen from which the above drawing was made, were black on the outer webs; thoſe next them white, and black

towards their tips: others of the quills were partly aſh-coloured, and partly white: the legs red.

The Black-cap Gulls breed on the marſhy edges of rivers, lakes, and fens in the interior parts of the country. The female makes her neſt among the reeds and ruſhes, of heath or dried graſs, and lays three or four eggs of an olive brown colour, blotched over with ſpots and ſtreaks of dull ruſty red. As ſoon as the young are able to accompany them, they all retire from thoſe places, and return to the ſea.

In former times theſe birds were looked upon as valuable property, by the owners of ſome of the fens and marſhes in this kingdom, who, every autumn, cauſed the little iſlets or hafts, in thoſe waſtes, to be cleared of the reeds and ruſhes, in order properly to prepare the ſpots for the reception of the old birds in the ſpring, to which places at that ſeaſon they regularly returned in great flocks to breed. The young ones were then highly eſteemed as excellent eating, and on that account were caught in great numbers before they were able to fly. Six or ſeven men, equipped for this buſineſs, waded through the pools, and with long ſtaves drove them to the land, againſt nets placed upon the ſhores of theſe hafts, where they were eaſily caught by the hand, and put into pens ready prepared for their reception. The gentry aſſem-

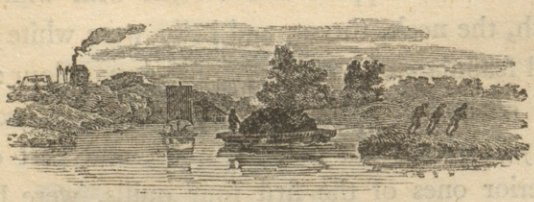
bled from all parts to ſee the ſport. Dr Plot, * in his natural Hiſtory of Staffordſhire, publiſhed in 1686, gives the above particulars, and ſays that in this manner as many have been caught in one morning as, when ſold at five ſhillings per dozen, (the uſual price at that time) produced the ſum of twelve pounds ten ſhillings; and that in the ſeveral drifts on the few ſucceeding days of this ſport, they have been taken in ſome years in ſuch abundance, that their value, according to the above rate, was from thirty to ſixty pounds—a great ſum in thoſe days. Theſe were the *See-Gulles* of which we read as being ſo plentifully provided at the great feaſts of the ancient nobility and biſhops of this realm. Although the fleſh of theſe birds is not now eſteemed a dainty, and they are ſeldom ſought after as an

* Dr Plot deſcribes them as coming annually "to certain pools in the eſtate of the right worſhipful Sir Charles Skrymſher, Knight, to build and breed, and to no other eſtate but that of this family, in or near the county, to which they have belonged *ultra hominum memoriam*, and never moved from it, though they have changed their ſtation often." What the Doctor relates of the attachment of theſe birds to the head of that family, of their removal to another ſpot immediately on his death, and of their returning again with the ſame predilection to his heir, is curious enough, although bordering very much upon the marvellous.—Willoughby gives nearly the ſame account in his excellent ornithology, publiſhed in 1678, and computes the ſale of the birds to amount to twenty-five pounds per annum.

article of food, yet in the breeding ſeaſon, where accommodation and protection are afforded them, they ſtill regularly reſort to the ſame old haunts, which have been occupied by their kind for a long time paſt. * The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a ſpecimen ſhot on Preſtwick-Car, near Newcaſtle upon Tyne.

The *Larus Atricilla* of Linnæus (Laughing Gull of Cateſby, &c.) is by ſome naturaliſts believed to be an old bird of this ſpecies, differing from it only in being rather larger, and in having the legs black.

* This is the caſe with the flocks which now breed at Pallinsburne, in Northumberland, where they are accounted of great uſe in clearing the ſurrounding lands of noxious inſects, worms, ſlugs, &c.



BROWN-HEADED GULL.

RED-LEGGED GULL, OR PICKMIRE.

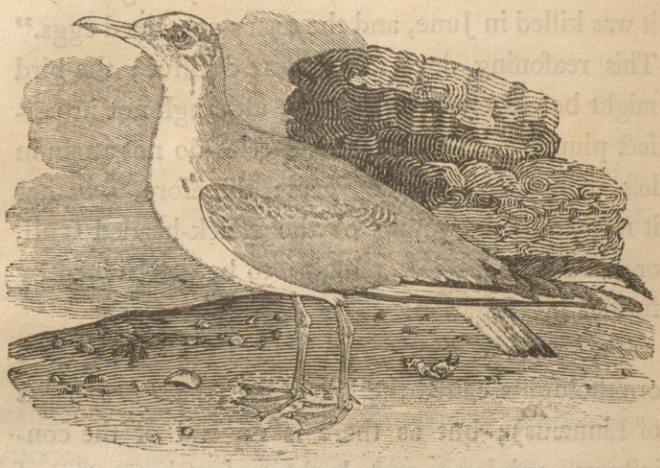
FOUR of theſe birds, two males and two females, were ſhot out of a flock on Preſtwick-Car, Northumberland, in the middle of May, by Mr John Wingate, of Newcaſtle, who favoured the author with a pair: they were of the ſame kind as the one deſcribed by Dr Heyſham in his Catalogue of Cumberland Animals, and communicated by him to Mr Latham. The bill and feet red; the edges of the eye-lids the ſame: inſide of the mouth reddiſh orange: irides hazel. The female, which was rather leſs than the male, weighed about ſeven ounces, and meaſured fourteen inches in length, and thirty-five in breadth: her head and throat were mouſe-coloured brown, the feathers, in places, very ſlightly edged or fringed with white. The plumage on the head of the male was of the ſame colour, but much more dappled and broken with white. In both, the neck, throat, and belly were white; back and ſcapulars of a fine pale blue grey colour: middle coverts of the wings light brown, edged with greyiſh white; the exterior webs, and part of the interior ones of the firſt four quills, were black: tail white, tipped with black: toes ſhort.

Dr Heyſham ſays, "It is clear," from his deſcription, "that it neither agrees with the Tarrock

nor the Pewit, and it could not be a young bird, as it was killed in June, and the ovary contained eggs." This reaſoning does not appear deciſive; the bird might be old enough to breed, although not in perfect plumage, to which ſome ſpecies do not attain in leſs than two or three years: therefore, whether it really was the young of the Black-headed Gull, or a diſtinct ſpecies, remains to be determined by further inveſtigation.

THE male of the Brown-headed Gull is by ſome ornithologiſts called the Kittiwake (the *Larus Riſſa* of Linnæus); but as there is no end of the conjectures, opinions, and doubts reſpecting many of the Gulls, which, from the ſlighteſt differences of plumage, have, in ſome inſtances, been branched out into new varieties, in this work the deſcriptions of others have been given in preference to making alterations, when the author could not with certainty throw any new light upon the ſubject.

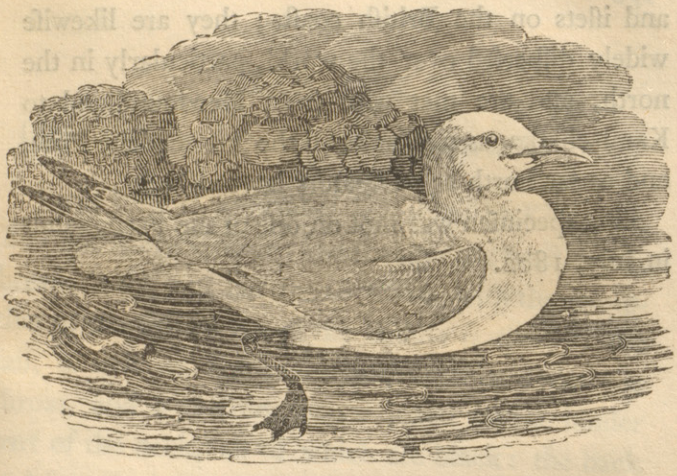




La Grande Mouette blanche, Belon.

Mr Pennant deſcribes this as a variety of the Black-headed or Pewit Gull; he ſays, "It differed in having the edges of the eye-lids covered with white ſoft feathers. The fore part of the head white; the ſpace round the eyes duſky: from the corner of each eye is a broad duſky bar, ſurrounding the hind part of the head; behind that is another reaching from ear to ear: the ends, interior and exterior edges of the three firſt quill feathers, black; the ends and interior ſides only of the two next white; beneath a black bar: the reſt, as well as the ſecondaries, aſh-colour." "In all other reſpects it reſembled the Common Pewit Gull." "The fat was of a deep orange colour."

The above figure was taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum.



KITTIWAKE,

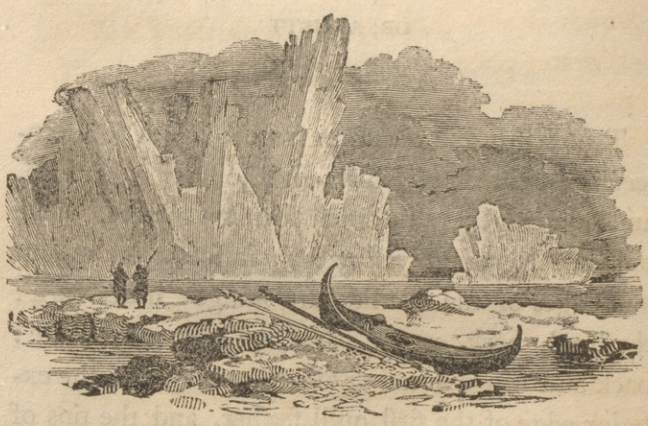
OR, ANNETT.

(*Larus Riſſa*, Linnæus.)

THE Kittiwake meaſures from fourteen to ſeventeen inches in length, thirty-eight to forty in breadth, and weighs generally about fourteen ounces. The bill is of a greeniſh yellow: the inſide of the mouth and edges of the eye-lids are orange: irides dark: the head, neck, under parts and tail, pure white: back and wings a lead or aſh-coloured grey: the exterior edge of the firſt quill feather, and the tips of the next four or five are black: legs duſky: hinder toe not bigger than a ſmall wart. Some ſpecimens of the Kittiwake are deſcribed as having the auriculars tipped with black.

Theſe birds chiefly haunt the rocky promontories and iſlets on the Britiſh coaſts; they are likewiſe widely diſperſed over the world, particularly in the north, and are met with from Newfoundland to Kamtſchatka, as well as in all the intermediate parts, and as far north as navigators have viſited.

This ſpecimen was ſhot on one of the Fern iſlands in July, 1802.



TARROCK.

(*Larus tridactylus*, Lin.—*La Mouette cendrée tachetée*, Buff.)

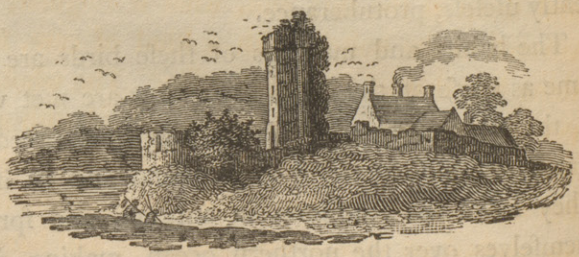
This bird is ſomewhat leſs than the Kittiwake. The bill is black, ſhort, and ſtrong: the head, neck, breaſt, belly, and tail are all white, with the exception of the tips of ten of the middle feathers of the tail, a ſpot on the auriculars, another under the throat, and a creſcent-ſhaped patch on the hinder part of the neck, all of which are black: the back and ſcapulars are of a bluiſh grey: leſſer coverts of the wings deepiſh brown, edged with grey: ſome of the greater covert feathers are of the ſame colour, and others of plain grey: the outer webs and ends of the firſt four quills, and the tips of the next two, are black; all the reſt are wholly white: the legs are of a dingy aſh-colour: the hinder toe, like that of the Kittiwake, is only a kind of ſmall, and apparently uſeleſs, protuberance.

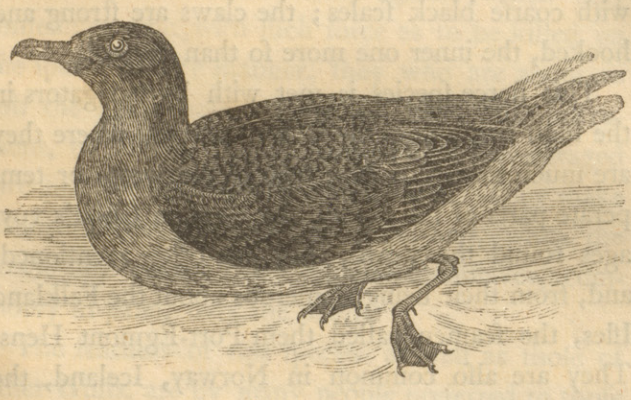
The habits and manners of theſe birds are the ſame as thoſe of the Kittiwake: they are met with in the ſame countries, and at the ſame breeding places, from Greenland to Scotland and its iſles. They leave the ſea-ſhores in autumn, and ſpread themſelves over the northern ocean, making, it is ſaid, the floating iſles of ice their chief reſting places. In the ſpring they return to the rocky crags to breed; and in the month of June the female lays

two eggs of a dingy greeniſh colour, ſpotted with brown: theſe, as well as the fleſh of the birds, are held in great eſtimation by the Greenlanders, who alſo uſe their ſkins for caps and garments.

After many doubts and ſurmiſes reſpecting the Tarrock, the prevailing opinion among ornithologiſts is, that it is only the Kittiwake not arrived at full age and plumage.

A ſpecimen of this bird, preſented by Charles John Brandling, Eſq. of Gosforth, had not the black ſpot on the throat. The leſſer wing coverts were very dark brown; the firſt five quills were black on the outer webs and tips; the tips of the next two were marked with a black ſpot; and the two outſide feathers of the tail were tipped in the ſame way.





SKUA GULL,

OR BROWN GULL.

(*Larus catarractes*, Lin.—*Le Goiland brun*, Buff.)

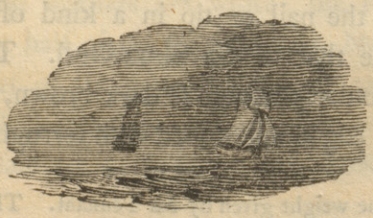
THIS ſtout Gull is two feet in length, and between four and five from tip to tip of the extended wings, and weighs about three pounds. The bill is dark, more than two inches long, ſtrong, much hooked, and ſharp at the tip; and, what is ſingular, it is covered to the noſtrils with a kind of cere, ſomething like that of the Hawk tribe. The whole upper plumage is of a deep brown, edged with a dull ruſt colour: the under parts are of the ſame colours, but lighter; and, in ſome birds, the head and throat are daſhed or mixed with aſh-grey, and have the ſecondary quills tipped with white: the tail is white at the root, the ſhafts are of the ſame colour, and the

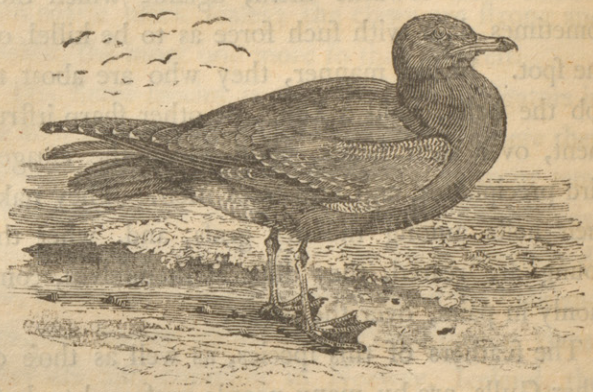
webs of deep brown: the legs and toes are covered with coarſe black ſcales; the claws are ſtrong and hooked, the inner one more ſo than the reſt.

This fierce ſpecies is met with by navigators in the high latitudes of both hemiſpheres, where they are much more common than in the warm or temperate parts of the globe. In Captain Cook's voyages round the world, they are often mentioned, and, from their being numerous about the Falkland Iſles, the ſeamen called them Port-Egmont Hens. They are alſo common in Norway, Iceland, the Shetland and Ferro Iſles, &c. It is ſaid that they prey not only upon fiſh, but alſo upon the leſſer ſorts of water-fowl, and even upon young lambs: this, however, is doubted, and, by ſome of the northern iſlanders, even denied: they on the contrary aſſert, that theſe birds afford protection to the flocks, by driving away the Eagle, which they furiouſly attack whenever it comes within their reach, and on this account they are highly valued. It is, however, well aſcertained that they are uncommonly courageous in defence of their own young, and that they ſeize, with the utmoſt vengeance, upon any animal, whether man or beaſt, that offers to diſturb their neſts; and it is ſaid alſo, that they ſometimes attack the ſhepherds even while they are watching their flocks upon the hills, who are obliged, in their own defence, to guard their heads, and to ward off the blows of the aſſailants by holding a

pointed ſtick towards them, againſt which they ſometimes daſh with ſuch force as to be killed on the ſpot. In like manner, they who are about to rob the neſts, hold a knife, or other ſharp inſtrument, over their heads, upon which the enraged bird precipitates, and transfixes itſelf. They make their neſts among the dry graſs, and, when the young are reared, they diſperſe themſelves, commonly in pairs, over the ocean.

The feathers of this ſpecies, as well as thoſe of other Gulls, are by many people preferred to thoſe of the Gooſe; and in ſome parts they are killed in great numbers, merely for the ſake of the feathers. On the Engliſh coaſts they are not very common: that from which the foregoing figure was taken, was ſhot near Tynemouth, in the month of September.





BLACK-TOED GULL.

LABBE, DUNG-BIRD, OR BOATSWAIN.

(*Larus Crepidatus.—Le Stercorare*, Buff.)

This bird measures sixteen inches and a half in length, and three feet four inches in breadth, and weighs eleven ounces.* The bill is of a lead colour, dark at the point, from which to the brow it is little more than an inch in length: the nostrils are placed near the nail or tip in a kind of cere not much unlike that of the Skua Gull. The whole upper and under plumage is dark brown, each feather slightly edged and tipped with ferruginous: the

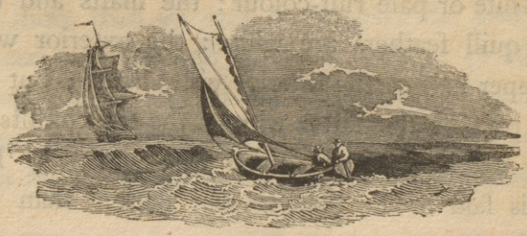
* This is the weight given by Mr Pennant. The specimen from which this figure and description were taken weighed only eight ounces, but it was very lean. It was shot on the Durham coast, by Mr John Forster of Newcastle, the first of October, 1800.

greater wing coverts, and the firſt and ſecondary quills are duſky, and more diſtinctly tipped with ruſty ſpots. The tail conſiſts of twelve feathers, the two middle ones longer than the reſt; it is of the ſame colour as the quills, except at the concealed part of its root, which is white. The legs are ſlender, and of a lead colour; the thighs and part of the joint, and the toes, black: the webs are of the ſame colour, excepting a ſmall ſpace between the firſt joints of the toes, which is white.

The Black-toed Gull deſcribed by Mr Pennant differs from this in ſome particulars: he ſays "the head and neck are of a dirty white: the hinder part of the latter plain, the reſt marked with oblong dirty ſpots: the breaſt and belly are white, croſſed with numerous duſky and yellowiſh lines: the feathers on the ſides and vent are barred tranſverſely with black and white: the back, ſcapulars, coverts of the wings, and tail, are black, beautifully edged with white or pale ruſt-colour: the ſhafts and tips of the quill feathers are white: the exterior web, and upper half of the interior web, black; but the lower part of the latter white: the tail conſiſts of twelve black feathers tipped with white." The male is ſaid to be blacker and darker than the female.

Theſe birds are not common on the Britiſh ſhores, nor, although widely diſperſed over the face of the ocean, are they numerous any where. They

do not exceed the Leſſer Gulls, or Mews, in ſize, yet their greater ferocity enables them to carry into effect that continual perſecution which is prompted by their ravenous appetite. As ſoon as they perceive that one of the Mews has ſeized a prey, they purſue and attack it with the ſpeed and vigour of a Hawk, until the haraſſed bird, through fatigue or fear, is compelled to drop or diſgorge the object of contention, which the purſuer catches in the fall, commonly before it reaches the water. Diſtant obſervers have ſuppoſed this dropping ſubſtance to be the dung of the fugitive, and hence the Black-toed Gull obtained the name of the Dung-bird.



ARCTIC GULL.

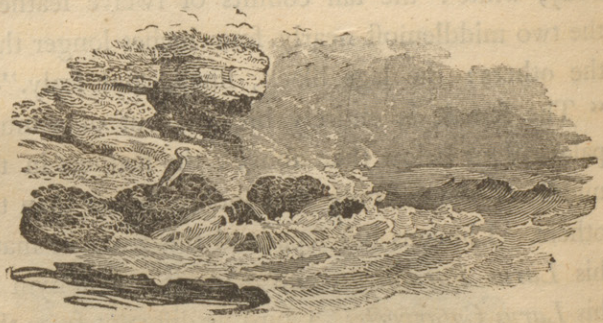
FEASER, OR LONG-TAILED LABBE.

(*Larus parasiticus*, Lin.—*Le Labbe à longue queue*, Buff.)

"THE length of this species is twenty-one inches: the bill is dusky, about an inch and a half long, pretty much hooked at the end, but the strait part is covered with a sort of cere. The nostrils are narrow, and placed near the end, like the former. In the male the crown of the head is black: the back, wings, and tail dusky: but the lower part of the inner webs of the quill feathers, white: the hind part of the neck, and the whole under side of the body, white: the tail consists of twelve feathers, the two middlemost nearly four inches longer than the others: the legs black, small, and scaly."—"The female is entirely brown; but of a much paler colour below than above: the feathers in the middle of the tail only two inches longer than the others. Linnæus has separated this from its mate, his *Larus Parasiticus*, and made it a synonym to his *Larus Catarractes*, a bird as different from this as any other of the whole genus." *Pennant.*

The habits and manners of this species are the same as those of the last. It pursues the smaller Gulls for the purpose of robbing them of their prey, and like the other, is called the Dung-bird, from similar groundless notions. It is pretty com-

mon in the northern parts of Europe, Aſia, and America. Numbers of them frequent the Hebrides in the breeding ſeaſon, which is from May till Auguſt. The female makes her neſt of moſs on the dry graſſy tufts in boggy places, and lays two eggs of an aſh-colour, ſpotted with black.



OF THE PETREL.

THE bills of this genus are ſtraight, except the end, which is bent or hooked: the noſtrils, for the moſt part, contained in one tube; but in a few ſpecies they are diſtinct and ſeparate. Legs ſmall, and naked above the knees: three toes placed forward, and a ſpur behind, inſtead of a back toe: wings very long and ſtrong.

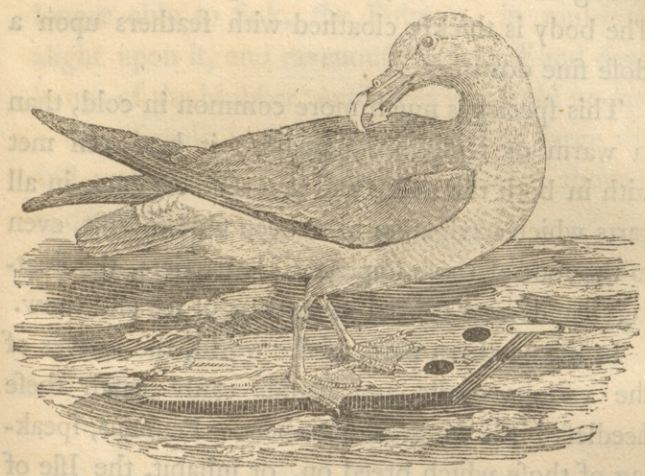
Theſe birds are the conſtant, roving, adventrous inhabitants of the ocean; one ſpecies or another of them is met with by navigators in every climate, and at the greateſt diſtances from land. They ſeem to ſport with the tempeſt, and run on foot, ſwim, or fly at pleaſure over the foaming billows, with amazing velocity.* In flying they generally keep ſo near to the undulating waters, that the tips of their wings often beat upon the ſurface, and thereby accelerate their progreſs. In calm weather they float and repoſe, as it were, on the boſom of the ocean. They are ſeldom ſeen on ſhore, and when they are, it is only in the breeding ſeaſon, and then merely for the purpoſes of incubation. The females depoſit their eggs in holes in the ground, or in the deep hidden caverns and

* Some ſpecies of them are known to dive alſo.—*Cook's Voyages.*

receſſes of the rocks, where they and their mates, while employed in rearing their young, are heard in croaking, clucking converſe, not unlike the unvaried hollow ſounds of a number of frogs. They are accounted a ſtupid race of birds, becauſe they ſeem fearleſs of danger, and ſuffer themſelves to be ſo nearly approached as eaſily to be ſhot, or even knocked on the head. In the preſervation of their young they ſeem to have only one mode of defence, and that is the ſingular faculty of ſquirting oil from their bills, with great force, on the face of their enemy; by which means they ſometimes ſucceed in diſconcerting his attempts to rob their neſts. They are a remarkably oily fat race of birds.

Ornithologiſts have reckoned nineteen ſpecies, and a few varieties, of the Petrel, whoſe noſtrils are contained in a ſingle tube,—and four ſpecies which have noſtrils divided into two tubes. Three ſpecies only of this genus are accounted Britiſh birds.





FULMAR,

OR, MALLEMOKE.

(*Procellaria glacialis*, Lin.—*Le Fulmar, ou Petrel Puffin gris blanc*, Buff.)

THE Fulmar meaſures ſeventeen inches in length, and weighs about twenty-two ounces. The bill is ſtrongly formed, and about two inches long; the hook or nail of the upper mandible, and the truncated termination or tip of the under one, are yellow; the other parts of it are of a greyiſh colour, and, in ſome ſpecimens, bluſhed with red: the noſtrils are contained in one ſheath, divided into two tubes. The head, neck, all the under parts, and the tail, are white: back and wing coverts blue grey: quills duſky blue: legs yellowiſh, in-

clining more or leſs, in ſome ſpecimens, to red. The body is thickly cloathed with feathers upon a cloſe fine down.

This ſpecies is much more common in cold, than in warm or temperate climates: it has been met with in both the arctic and antarctic regions, in all parts which navigators have been able to viſit, even to the foot of thoſe impenetrable barriers, the floating iſlands and eternal mountains of ice and ſnow.

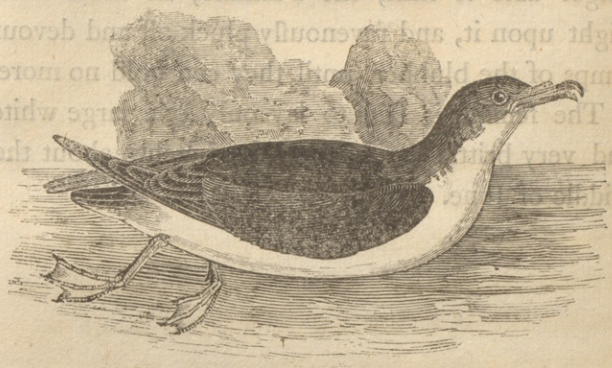
In the northern parts of the world, the natives of the various coaſts and iſlands eaſily catch theſe heedleſs birds in great numbers. Pennant, ſpeaking of thoſe which breed on, or inhabit, the Iſle of St Kilda, ſays—"No bird is of ſuch uſe to the iſlanders as this: the Fulmar ſupplies them with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a delicacy for their tables, a balm for their wounds, and a medicine for their diſtempers." He ſays alſo, that it is a "certain prognoſticator of the change of the wind: if it comes to land, no weſt wind is expected for ſome time; and the contrary when it returns and keeps the ſea."

Theſe birds are extremely greedy and gluttonous, and will devour any floating putrid ſubſtances, ſuch as the filth from the ſhips, which they fearleſsly follow. They alſo purſue the whales, but particularly the bloody track of thoſe which are wounded, and in ſuch great flocks as thereby ſometimes to diſcover the prize to the fiſhers, with whom they ge-

nerally ſhare; for when the huge animal is no longer able to ſink, the Fulmars, in multitudes, alight upon it, and ravenouſly pluck off and devour lumps of the blubber, until they can hold no more.

The female is ſaid to lay only one large white and very brittle egg, which ſhe hatches about the middle of June.





SHEARWATER.

SKRABE, MANKS PETREL, MANKS PUFFIN, OR LYRE.

(*Procellaria Puffinus*, Lin.—*Le Puffin*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies meaſures in length fifteen inches, and in breadth thirty-one, and weighs about ſeventeen ounces. The bill is about an inch and three-quarters long; the tip black, the other parts yelloviſh: the tubular noſtrils are not ſo prominent as in others of this genus. The inner coverts of the wings, and under parts of the body, are white: the head, tail, thighs, and upper parts, black, tinted more or leſs with grey: the legs are flattened on the ſides, and weak; light-coloured, or whitiſh on the fore parts, and duſky behind.

The Shearwater is found in greater or ſmaller numbers in almoſt every part of the watery world,

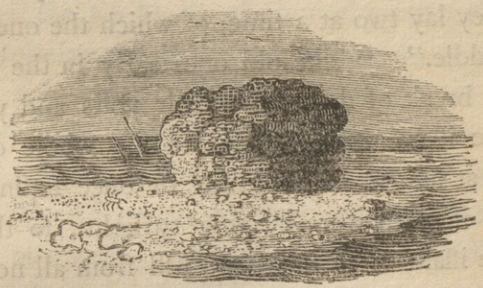
in both hemiſpheres, and in every climate; but they are met with in greater abundance in the north. In the Hebrides, and other iſlands with which the ſeas of Scotland are dotted, theſe birds are caught by the natives in great numbers, and are uſed for the ſame purpoſes as the Fulmar.

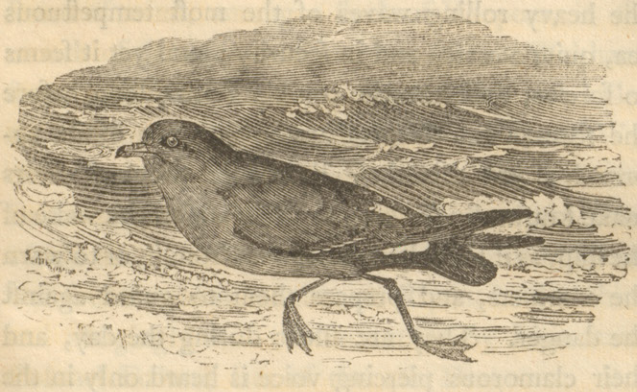
Willoughby, whoſe excellent ornithology has thrown ſo much light on this branch of natural hiſtory, and cleared the paths for ſubſequent writers, gives the following account of the coming of theſe birds to breed in the Iſle of Man:—

"At the ſouth end of the Iſle of Man lies a little iſlet, divided from Man by a narrow channel, called the Calf of Man, on which are no habitations but only a cottage or two lately built. This iſlet is full of rabbits, which the Puffins coming yearly diſlodge, and build in their burroughs. They lay each but one egg before they ſit, like the Razor-bill and Guillem, although it be the common perſuaſion that they lay two at a time, of which the one is always addle." "The old ones early in the morning, at break of day, leave their neſts and young, and the iſland itſelf, and ſpend the whole day in fiſhing at ſea, never returning or once ſetting foot on the iſland before evening twilight: ſo that all day the iſland is ſo quiet and ſtill from all noiſe as if there were not a bird about it." He obſerves that they feed the young ones from the contents of their loaded ſtomachs during the night, that they

become extremely fat, and are taken and ſalted down for keeping, and that the Romiſh church permitted them to be eaten in lent. He adds further reſpecting the young ones:—"When they come to their growth, they who are intruſted by the lord of the iſland (the Earl of Derby) to draw them out of the rabbit-holes, that they may the more readily know and keep account of the number they take, cut off one foot, and reſerve it, which gave occaſion to that fable, that the Puffins are ſingle-footed. They uſually ſell them for about nine-pence the dozen, a very cheap rate."

The above figure was taken from a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum.





STORMY PETREL.

STORM FINCH, OR LITTLE PETREL.

(*Procellaria pelagica*, Lin.—*L'Oiſeau de tempète*, Buff.)

THIS is the leaſt of all the web-footed birds, meaſuring only about ſix inches in length, and thirteen in breadth. The bill is half an inch long, hooked at the tip; the noſtrils tubular. The upper parts of the plumage are black, ſleek, and gloſſed with bluiſh reflections: the brow, cheeks, and under parts, ſooty brown: the rump, and ſome feathers on the ſides of the tail, white: legs ſlender, black, and ſcarcely an inch and three-quarters in length, from the knee joint to the end of the toes.

This bird reſembles the Chimney Swallow in general appearance, in the length of its wings, and in the ſwiftneſs of its flight. It is ſometimes met with by navigators on every part of the ocean, diving,

running on foot, or ſkimming over the ſurface of the heavy rolling waves of the moſt tempeſtuous ſea, quite at eaſe, and in ſecurity; and yet it ſeems to foreſee, and fear the coming ſtorm, long before the ſeaman can diſcover any appearance of its approach; and this theſe little ſure prognoſticators make known by flocking together under the wake of the ſhip, as if to ſhelter themſelves from it, or to warn the mariners, and prepare them to guard againſt the danger. They are ſilent during the day, and their clamorous piercing voice is heard only in the night. In the breeding ſeaſon they betake themſelves to the promontories, where, in the fiſsures of the rocks, they breed and rear their young, which they conduct to the watery element as ſoon as they are able to crawl, and immediately lead them forward to roam, with themſelves, over the dreary and trackleſs waſte.

Mr Pennant, on the authority of Brunnich, ſays, that "the inhabitants of the Ferro Iſles make this bird ſerve the purpoſes of a candle, by drawing a wick through the mouth and rump, which being lighted, the flame is fed by the fat and oil of the body." Like others of this genus, it ſquirts oil from its bill on the face of its enemy.

Although it has been generally ſaid that theſe birds are never ſeen but at ſea, except during the period of incubation; yet ſome inſtances occur of their having been ſhot inland. Mr Latham ſpeaks

of one which was ſhot at Sandwich, in Kent, in a ſtorm of wind, among a flock of Hoopoes, in the month of January,—of another ſhot at Walthamſtow, in Eſſex,—and of a third which was killed near Oxford. The late M. Tunſtal, Eſq. of Wycliffe, had one ſent to him, which was ſhot near Bakewell, in Derbyſhire; and the ſpecimen from which the above figure and deſcription were taken, was found dead in a field near Ripon, in Yorkſhire, and obligingly ſent to the author by Lieutenant-Colonel Dalton, late of the 4th Dragoons. It is probable that ſickneſs, or the extreme violence of ſome hurricane had driven theſe birds ſo far from their natural element.



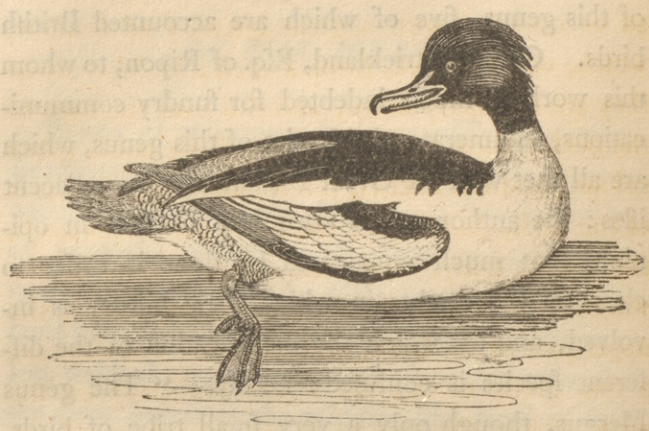
OF THE MERGUS.

Birds of this genus have roundiſh ſlender bills, furniſhed at the end with a hard, horny, crooked nail; edges of the mandibles very ſharply toothed, or ſerrated; noſtrils ſmall, ſubovated and placed near the middle of the bill: tongue rough, with hard indented papillæ turned backward: legs ſhort; feet webbed; toes long, and the outer ones about the ſame length as the middle: the head is ſmall, but the quantity of ſoft ſilky feathers with which it is furniſhed, and which they can briſtle up from the nape of the neck to the brow, gives it a large appearance. They are a broad, long-bodied, and flat-backed kind of birds, and ſwim very ſquatly on the water, the body ſeeming nearly ſubmerged, with only the head and neck clearly ſeen. They are excellent divers, remaining a long while under water, and getting to a great diſtance before they appear again. They fly near the ſurface of the water, and, notwithſtanding the ſhortneſs of their wings, with great ſwiftneſs, though ſeldom to any great diſtance. They devour a large quantity of fiſh; and their pointed, ſharp-toothed, and hooked bills, are well calculated for holding faſt their ſlippery prey, none of which, when once within their gripe, can eſcape.

Latham enumerates ſix ſpecies and three varieties of this genus, five of which are accounted Britiſh birds. George Strickland, Eſq. of Ripon, to whom this work is much indebted for ſundry communications, enumerates ſix ſpecies of this genus, which are all met with in Great Britain and its adjacent iſles: the author agrees with him likewiſe in opinion, that much remains to be done in order to clear up the doubts in which their hiſtory is involved, and by which the claſsification of the different ſpecies is confuſed: he ſays—"The genus Mergus, though only a very ſmall tribe of birds, ſtill remains in the greateſt obſcurity, and I have not yet met with any ornithologiſt who has not, in my opinion, multiplied the number of the ſpecies, by conſidering birds of this genus as of different kinds, when they differed only in ſex." His arrangement is as follows:—

Genus Mergus.

Species 1. *Merganſer* ... Gooſander.
2. *Caſtor* ..... Dun-Diver.
3. *Serrator* ..... Leſs Dun-Diver.
4. *Albellus* ..... Smew.
5. ——— ..... Lough-Diver.
6. *Minutus* .... Red-headed Smew.



GOOSANDER.

(*Mergus Merganſer*, Lin.—*L'Harle*, Buff.)

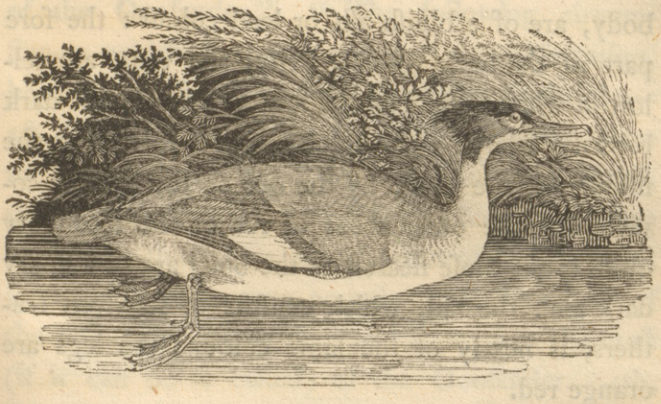
THE male generally weighs about four pounds, and meaſures in length nearly two feet, and in breadth three feet two inches. The bill is ſlender, and turned a little upwards; it is three inches long from the hooked nail or tip to the corners of the mouth, but little more than two inches on the ridge; both mandibles are black on the upper and under parts, and crimſon on the ſides; they are ſharply toothed on the edges, and on the inſide of the upper, which is narrow, thin, and hard at the tip, there is a double row of ſmaller teeth: the tongue is furniſhed with a ſimilar kind of double row, running along the middle, and edged with a kind of hairy border: the irides are commonly of a fine

red colour, but in ſome duſky. The head is covered or crowned with a great quantity of feathers, which, when erected, form a creſt; at other times they are laid flatly down, and fall over the nape of the neck: theſe feathers are of a gloſſy bottle green colour; and the cheeks, throat, and upper fore part of the neck, dull black: the lower part of the neck, the breaſt, belly, vent, and inner coverts of the wings are of a beautiful kind of cream colour: the upper part of the back, and adjoining ſcapulars are a fine gloſſy black; the others bordering on the wing, white: the coverts at the ſetting on of the wing, black; the reſt pure white; the ſecondary quills are the ſame, narrowly edged with black: the primaries duſky: the middle of the back and rump are aſh-colour; from the thighs to the ſides of the tail, waved and freckled with aſh and white: the tail conſiſts of eighteen dark bluiſh grey feathers: the legs and feet are deep ſcarlet, like ſealing-wax. Willoughby ſays—"It hath a huge bony labyrinth on the windpipe, juſt above the divarications; and the windpipe hath, beſides, two ſwellings out, one above another, each reſembling a powder-puff."* It is probable that the whole genus have a ſimilar kind of windpipe, and that the uſe of it is to contain the air, which the bird reſpires while diving, and remaining long under water.

* The Red-breaſted Gooſander has the ſame.

The Gooſander is an inhabitant of the cold northern latitudes, and ſeldom makes its appearance in the temperate or more ſouthern climates, to which it is driven only by the inclemency of the weather, in ſevere winters, in ſearch of thoſe parts of rivers or lakes which are not bound up by the froſt. It leaves this country early in the ſpring, and goes northward to breed, and is never ſeen during the ſummer months in any part of England; but in hard winters (which the appearance of theſe birds preſages) they are common on the freſh-water pools, rivers, and fens in the eaſt riding of Yorkſhire, and on the fens of Lincolnſhire. Their fleſh is by ſome accounted rank and fiſhy; others ſay that it is dry unpleaſant food, and, in corroboration of this, quote the old vulgar proverb, "He who would regale the devil, might ſerve him with Merganſer and Cormorant." The author, in ſome inſtances, has found theſe proverbs to be not well founded; but never having taſted of this particular ſpecies, he cannot hazard a contrary opinion.

The foregoing deſcription was taken from a bird in full plumage, with which this work was favoured by Robert Pearſon, Eſq. of Newcaſtle, 20th March, 1800.



DUN-DIVER,

OR SPARLING-FOWL.

(*Mergus caſtor*, Lin.—*L'Harle cendré, ou le Bievre*, Buff.)

THIS is of the ſame form as the Gooſander, but differs from that bird in its plumage and ſize: it meaſures twenty-ſeven inches in length, and thirty-five in breadth,—and, when in good condition, weighs ſometimes between three and four pounds. The bill, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, is two inches and a quarter long, of a red colour, but darker on its ridge; the hooked horny nail of the upper mandible is blackiſh; the tip of the under one white. The head and upper part of the neck are of a deep cheſnut; the creſt, the feathers of which are ſoft, very long, and pendent, is of a deeper ſhade of the ſame colour: the chin and upper part of the throat are white: the back, ſcapu-

lars, coverts of the wings, rump, and ſides of the body, are of a bluiſh aſh or lead colour: the fore part of the neck, breaſt, belly, and vent, are yellowiſh white: the baſtard and primary quills dark brown: a large white patch or bar is formed on the middle of the wing, by the tips of the greater coverts and the outer webs of ſix of the ſecondary quills; but thoſe neareſt to the body are of a hoary dark aſh: the tail, which conſiſts of fourteen feathers, is nearly of the ſame colour: the legs are orange red.

The habits, manners, and haunts of this ſpecies are nearly the ſame as thoſe of the laſt; but the Dun-diver is met with in this country in greater numbers. * They have long been looked upon and treated of by ornithologiſts as the female of the Gooſander; later obſervations, however, have wrought a change of opinion among the modern inveſtigators of this branch of natural hiſtory, and it is now generally agreed that the Dun-diver is a diſtinct ſpecies. Dr Heyſham, of Carliſle, was probably the firſt who, by diſſection, removed ſome of the doubts in which this matter was involved:—in his Catalogue of Cumberland Animals, † he ſays,

* Latham, on the authority of Mr Jackſon, ſays they breed on the iſlands of the river Shannon, near Killaloe, in Ireland, and are frequently ſeen there the whole ſummer.

† See additional ornaments to Hutchinſon's Hiſtory of Cumberland.

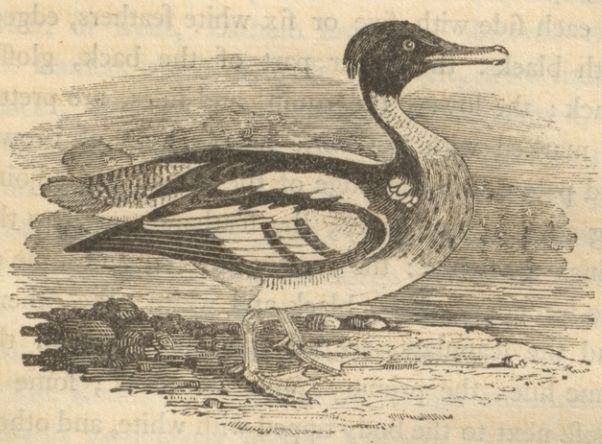
"This has generally been conſidered as the female of the Gooſander." "The following circumſtances which have come under my obſervation, however, render this opinion ſomewhat doubtful:—1ſt, The Dun-divers are far more numerous than the Gooſanders. 2d, The Dun-divers are all leſs than the Gooſanders, (the largeſt I have ſeen being little more than three pounds) but of various ſizes, ſome being under two pounds. 3d, The creſt of the Dun-diver is conſiderably longer than the creſt (if it can be ſo called) of the Gooſander. 4th, Dun-divers have been found, upon diſſection, to be males. 5th, The neck of the largeſt Dun-diver, and which has proved to be a male, is nothing like ſo thick as the neck of the Gooſander." "On the 26th of December, 1783, I diſſected a Dun-diver, which was rather more than three pounds in weight; its length was twenty-ſeven inches, and its breadth thirty-five inches. It proved to be a male: the teſtes, though flaccid, were very diſtinct, and about half an inch in length. In the middle of January, 1786, I received two Dun-divers, both of which I diſſected: the firſt was a ſmall one, about two pounds in weight; it proved to be a female; the eggs were very diſtinct: the ſecond was much larger, and weighed three pounds; its creſt was longer, and its belly of a fine yellowiſh roſe-colour: it was a male, and the teſtes were beginning to grow turgid. I have diſſected only one Gooſander,

and that proved to be a male. Therefore, until a Gooſander be found, upon diſſection, to prove a female, or two Gooſanders to attend the ſame neſt, the doubts reſpecting theſe birds cannot be ſatisfactorily removed."

Although Willoughby deſcribes this as the female Gooſander, yet he expreſſes his doubts of the matter, from its being, like that bird, furniſhed with a kind of large labyrinth, which, he ſays, is to be found in the males only of the Duck tribe, and whence he conjectures that this is alſo peculiar to all the males of the Mergi, and that all the females are without it; but he notices one of this family (which at Venice is called Cokall) in which this labyrinth, or enlargement of the windpipe was wanting. Reſpecting the Dun-diver he further obſerves, that "the ſtomach of this bird is as it were a craw and a gizzard joined together. The upper part, reſembling the craw, hath no wrinkles or folds in its inner membrane, but is only granulated with ſmall papillary glandules, reſembling the little protuberances on the third ventricle of a Beef, called the manifold, or thoſe on the ſhell of a Sea-urchin."

The above figure was drawn from one in full plumage and perfection, for which this work was indebted to Robert Pearſon, Eſq. of Newcaſtle, the 28th of February, 1801.





RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.

(*Mergus ſerrator*, Lin.—*L'Harle huppé*, Buff.)

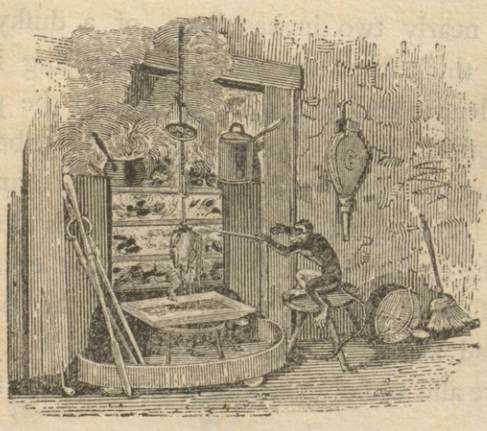
THIS bird meaſures one foot nine inches in length, and two feet ſeven in breadth, and weighs about two pounds. The bill, from the tip to the angles of the mouth, is three inches in length, ſlender, and of a rather roundiſh form, and, like thoſe of the reſt of this genus, hooked at the tip, and toothed on the edges: the upper mandible is dark brown, tinged with green, and edged with red; the lower one wholly red: the irides are deep red: the head, long pendent creſt, and upper part of the neck, are of a gloſſy violet black, changing in different lights to a beautiful gilded green: the reſt of the neck and belly white: the breaſt ruſty

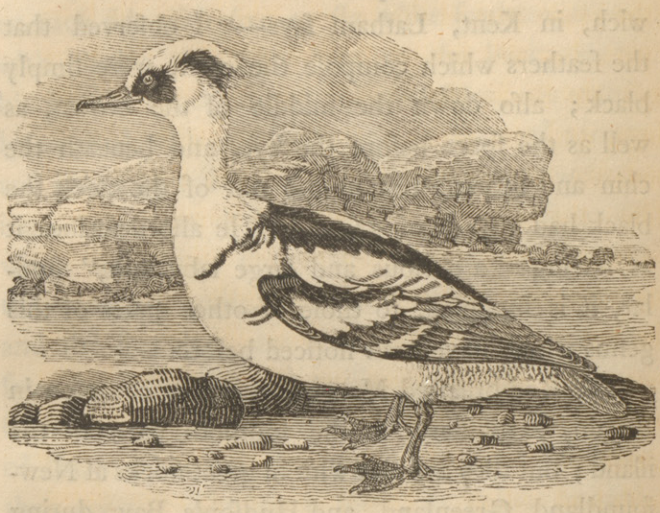
red, ſpotted with black on the front, and bordered on each ſide with five or ſix white feathers, edged with black: the upper part of the back, gloſſy black; the lower, the rump, and ſides, are prettily marked with tranſverſe zigzag lines of brown and pale grey: the ridge of the wings, and adjoining coverts, are duſky; the feathers neareſt to the wings are white: the greater coverts, and ſome of the ſecondary quills, black and white; the others, and the ſcapulars, are alſo party-coloured of the ſame hue: the primary quills are black; ſome of thoſe next to the body tipped with white, and others of them white on the upper half, and black to their points. The tail is ſhort, its colour brown: the legs and feet are of a deep ſaffron-coloured red. Theſe birds, both male and female, are ſaid to differ much in their plumage; ſome having more white on them than others, and ſome alſo brighter colours, and more diſtinctly marked.

The female (which the author has not ſeen) is deſcribed as differing from the male in having only the rudiment of a creſt. Mr Pennant ſays—"The head and upper part of the neck are of a deep ruſt-colour: throat white: fore part of the neck and breaſt marbled with deep aſh-colour: belly white: great quill feathers duſky: lower half of the neareſt ſecondaries black; the upper white; the reſt duſky: back, ſcapulars, and tail, aſh-coloured: the upper half of the ſecondary feathers white; the lower half black; the others duſky."

In a male of this ſpecies which was ſhot at Sandwich, in Kent, Latham ſays—"I obſerved that the feathers which compoſe the creſt, were ſimply black; alſo down the middle of the crown, as well as the ſpace before the eye, and beneath the chin and throat; but in the reſt of the neck the black had a gloſs of green." He alſo deſcribes it as having "a curious and large labyrinth," ſimilar, it is ſuppoſed, to thoſe of other males of this genus which have been noticed before.

The Red-breaſted Merganſer is not common in Britain, particularly in the ſouthern parts of the iſland; but they are met with in great flocks at Newfoundland, Greenland, and Hudſon's Bay, during the ſummer months; they are found alſo in various other northern parts of the world, and in the Mediterranean ſea.





SMEW,

OR WHITE NUN.

(*Mergus albellus*, Lin.—*Le petit Harle huppé, ou la Piette*, Buff.)

THE Smew is about the ſize of a Wigeon: the bill is nearly two inches long, of a duſky blue colour, thickeſt at the baſe, and tapering into a more ſlender and narrow ſhape towards the point; it is toothed like thoſe of the reſt of this tribe: the irides are dark: on each ſide of the head, an oval-ſhaped black patch, gloſſed with green, is extended from the corners of the mouth over the eyes: the under ſide of the creſt is black; the other parts of the head and neck white: the breaſt, belly, and vent are alſo white, excepting a curved black ſtroke,

pointing forward from the ſhoulders on each ſide of the upper part of the breaſt, which, on the lower part, has alſo ſimilar ſtrokes pointing the ſame way: the back, the coverts on the ridge of the wings, and the primary quills, are black: the ſecondaries and greater coverts black, tipped with white: the middle coverts and the ſcapulars white: the ſides, under the wings to the tail, are agreeably variegated and croſſed with dark waved lines. The tail conſiſts of ſixteen dark aſh-coloured feathers; the middle ones are about three inches and a half long, the reſt gradually tapering off ſhorter on each ſide: the legs and feet are of a bluiſh lead colour. This ſpecies is at once diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of the Mergi by its black and white piebald appearance, although the individuals vary from each other in the proportion and extent of thoſe colours on their plumage.



RED-HEADED SMEW,

OR WEESEL COOT.

(*Mergus minutus*, Lin.—*L'Harle etoilé*, Buff.)

This bird meaſures fifteen inches and a half in length, and twenty-four in breadth, and weighs about fourteen or fifteen ounces. The bill is of a bluiſh lead colour, the tip duſky: the head and creſt are of a reddiſh brown, with a duſky ſpot between the bill and the eyes: the cheeks, throat, belly, ſides of the body, and vent, are white: the middle of the neck is encircled with pale brown; the lower part of it, the breaſt, and ſhoulders, are clouded with dingy brown and pale grey: the ridge of the wings, and adjoining leſſer coverts are grey; the middle coverts white; the greater and the ſecondary quills, like thoſe of the Smew, black, tipped with white; the primary quills duſky: the back, ſcapulars, rump, and tail, of a deep browniſh aſh-colour: legs and feet dull pale blue.

The Red-headed Smew has long been conſidered, by ſome ornithologiſts, as a diſtinct ſpecies, while others have maintained that it is only the female of the laſt; and this matter is ſtill doubtful. Mr Pennant, in the ſupplement to his Arctic Zoology, ſays, it is now found to be the female of the Smew; Mr Latham is of the ſame opinion;—but

Mr Strickland thinks differently; he refts his opinion chiefly on the great difproportion in their weight: the former, he fays, is two pounds two ounces, while this is only about fourteen ounces.



LOUGH-DIVER.

This is ſomewhat leſs than the Smew. "The head and hinder part of the neck are ruſt-coloured; the head ſlightly creſted: back, ſcapulars, and tail duſky: fore part of the neck white: breaſt clouded with grey: on the leſſer coverts of the wings a great bed of white; on the primaries and greater coverts two tranſverſe lines of white: legs duſky." In deſcribing this as the female of the Smew, Mr Pennant ſays it has "around the eyes a ſpot of the ſame colour and form as in the male;" he afterwards corrects his error in ſuppoſing it the female, and adds—"The bird I thought to be the female, and called the Lough-diver, is a diſtinct kind. Mr Plymley informs me that he diſſected ſeveral, and found males and females without any diſtinction of plumage in either ſex."

Having had no opportunity of examining either of the two birds laſt deſcribed, the author has been obliged to relate merely what others have ſaid concerning them, and is at a loſs how to reconcile their different opinions, not only indeed concerning theſe, but others of this tribe; to ſome of which no known females have yet been diſtinctly attached: and whilſt it is evident that this is a circumſtance which cannot happen, it is alſo plain that much further inveſtigation is neceſſary in order to eluci-

date their hiſtory. The finiſhing hand of ſome ſcientific ornithologiſt is yet wanting, whoſe zeal and induſtry in the purſuit may be rewarded by the means and opportunities of acquiring ſuch information as may clear up thoſe doubts, and remove thoſe difficulties, which have hitherto rendered this claſs of birds ſo imperfectly known.

The Lough-diver, the White Nun, and the Red-headed Smew ſeldom viſit this country, except in very ſevere winters, by which they are driven from their haunts in the northern parts of the world. Their manners and habits are alike; they alſo differ little from the reſt of the genus, which all live on fiſh of various kinds, which they eagerly hunt after, both at ſea and in the freſh-water lakes, as neceſſity or inclination impels them to viſit the one or the other.



OF THE ANAS.

The bill of this genus is ſtrong, broad, depreſſed, or flat, and commonly furniſhed at the end with a nail; the edges of the mandibles divided into lamillæ or teeth: noſtrils ſmall and oval: tongue broad, edges near the baſe, fringed: feet webbed; the middle toe the longeſt.

This genus, in which ornithologiſts have included all the Swans, Geeſe, and Ducks, amounts, according to the lateſt enumeration, to ninety-eight ſpecies, and about fourteen varieties; thirty-three of the former, and one of the latter, are accounted Britiſh birds.

From the Swan downward to the Teal, they are all a clean-plumaged beautiful race of birds, and ſome of them exquiſitely ſo. Thoſe which have been reclaimed from a ſtate of nature, and live dependent on man, are extremely uſeful to him: under his protection they breed in great abundance, and without requiring much of his time or care, lead their young to the pool almoſt as ſoon as they are hatched, where they inſtantly, with inſtinctive perception, begin to ſearch for their food, which at firſt conſiſts chiefly of weeds, worms, and inſects; theſe they ſift, as it were, from the mud, and for that purpoſe their bills are admirably adapted. When they are further advanced in life, they pick

up the ſodden ſcattered grain of the farm-yard, which, but for their aſſiduous ſearchings, would be loſt. To them alſo are allotted the larger quantities of corn which are ſhaken by the winds from the over-ripened ears in the fields. On this clean and ſimple food they ſoon become fat, and their fleſh is accounted delicious and nouriſhing.

In a wild ſtate, birds of various kinds preſerve their original plumage; but when tamed they ſoon begin to vary, and ſhew the effects of domeſtication: this is the caſe with the tame Gooſe and the Duck, which differ as much from the wild of their reſpective kinds, as they do from each other.



WILD SWAN.

ELK, HOOPER, OR WHISTLING SWAN.

(*Anas Cygnus ferus*, Lin.—*Le Cygne ſauvage*, Buff.)

THE Wild Swan meaſures five feet in length, and above ſeven in breadth, and weighs from thirteen to ſixteen pounds. The bill is three inches long, of a yellowiſh white from the baſe to the middle, and thence to the tip, black: the bare ſpace from the bill over the eye and eye-lids is yellow: the whole plumage in adult birds is of a pure white, and, next to the ſkin, they are cloathed with a thick fine down: the legs are black.

This ſpecies generally keeps together in ſmall flocks, or families, except in the pairing ſeaſon, and at the ſetting in of winter. At the latter period they aſſemble in immenſe multitudes, particularly on the large rivers and lakes of the thinly inhabited northern parts of Europe, Aſia, and America: but when the extremity of the weather threatens to become inſupportable, in order to ſhun the gathering ſtorm, they ſhape their courſe high in air, in divided and diminiſhed numbers, in ſearch of milder climates. In ſuch ſeaſons they are moſt commonly ſeen in various parts of the Britiſh iſles, and in other more ſouthern countries of Europe. The ſame is obſerved of them in the North American ſtates. They do not, however, remain longer than

till the approaching of the ſpring, when they again retire northward to the arctic regions to breed. A few, indeed, drop ſhort, and perform that office by the way, for they are known to breed in ſome of the Hebrides, the Orkney, Shetland, and other ſolitary iſles; but theſe are hardly worth notice: the great bodies of them are met with in the large rivers and lakes near Hudſon's Bay, and thoſe of Kamtſchatka, Lapland, and Iceland. They are ſaid to return to the latter place in flocks of about a hundred at a time in the ſpring, and alſo to pour in upon that iſland from the north, in nearly the ſame manner, on their way ſouthward in the autumn. The young which are bred there remain throughout the firſt year; and in Auguſt, when they are in moult, and unable to fly, the natives taking advantage of this, ſhoot, kill them with clubs, and hunt them down with dogs, by which they are eaſily caught. The fleſh is highly eſteemed by them as a delicious food, as are alſo the eggs, which are gathered in the ſpring. The Icelanders, Kamtſchatdales, and other natives of the northern world, dreſs their ſkins with the down on, ſew them together, and make them into garments of various kinds: the northern American Indians do the ſame, and ſometimes weave the down as barbers weave the cawls for wigs, and then manufacture it into ornamental dreſſes for the women of rank, while the larger feathers are formed into caps and plumes

to decorate the heads of their chiefs and warriors. They alſo gather the feathers and down in large quantities, and barter or ſell them to the inhabitants of more civilized nations.

Buffon is of opinion that the Tame Swan has been derived originally from the wild ſpecies; other naturaliſts entertain a contrary opinion, which they form chiefly on the difference between them in the ſingular conformation of the windpipe. Willoughby ſays, "The windpipe of the Wild Swan, after a ſtrange and wonderful manner enters the breaſt-bone in a cavity prepared for it, and is therein reflected, and after its egreſs at the divarication is contracted into a narrow compaſs by a broad and bony cartilage, then being divided into two branches, goes on to the lungs: theſe branches before they enter the lungs, are dilated, and as it were ſwollen out into two cavities." Dr Heyſham corroborates the above, and adds, that the Wild Swan, in this particular, differs not only from the Tame Swan, but alſo from every other bird. The only obſervable external difference between the two ſpecies is in the markings of the bill, (which are figured in the ſubjoined head) and in the Wild Swan's being of leſs bulk than the mute or tame kind.

Much has been ſaid, in ancient times, of the ſinging of the Swan, and many beautiful and poetical deſcriptions have been given of its dying ſong.— "No fiction of natural hiſtory, no fable of anti-

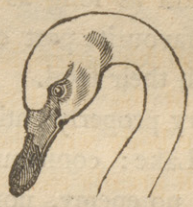
quity, was ever more celebrated, oftener repeated, or better received: it occupied the ſoft and lively imagination of the Greeks; poets, orators, and even philoſophers, adopted it as a truth too pleaſing to be doubted." "The dull inſipid truth," however, is very different from ſuch amiable and affecting fables, for the voice of the Swan, ſingly, is ſhrill, piercing, and harſh, not unlike the ſound of a clarionet when blown by a novice in muſic. It is, however, aſſerted by thoſe who have heard the united and varied voices of a numerous aſſemblage of them, that they produce a more harmonious effect, particularly when ſoftened by the murmur of the waters.

At the ſetting in of froſty weather, the Wild Swans are ſaid to aſſociate in prodigious multitudes, and thus united, to uſe every effort to prevent the water from freezing: this they accompliſh by the continual ſtir kept up amongſt them; and by conſtantly daſhing it with their extended wings, they are enabled to remain as long as it ſuits their convenience, in ſome favourite part of a lake or river which abounds with their food.

The Swan is very properly entitled the peaceful Monarch of the Lake: conſcious of his ſuperior ſtrength, he fears no enemy, nor ſuffers any bird, however powerful, to moleſt him; neither does he prey upon any one. His vigorous wing is as a ſhield againſt the attacks even of the Eagle, and the

blows from it are ſaid to be ſo powerful as to ſtun or kill the fierceſt of his foes. The Wolf or the Fox may ſurpriſe him in the dark, but their efforts are vain in the day. His food conſiſts of the graſſes and weeds, and the ſeeds and roots of plants which grow on the margins of the water, and of the myriads of inſects which ſkim over, or float on its ſurface; alſo occaſionally of the ſlimy inhabitants within its boſom.

The female makes her neſt of the withered leaves and ſtalks of reeds and ruſhes, and lays commonly ſix or ſeven thick-ſhelled white eggs: ſhe is ſaid to ſit upon them ſix weeks before they are hatched. Both male and female are very attentive to their young, and will ſuffer no enemy to approach them.





MUTE SWAN,

OR TAME SWAN.

(*Anas Cygnus manſuetus*, Lin.—*Le Cygne*, Buff.)

THE plumage of this ſpecies is of the ſame ſnowy whiteneſs as that of the Wild Swan, and the bird is covered next the body with the ſame kind of fine cloſe down; but it greatly exceeds the Wild Swan in ſize, weighing about twenty-five pounds, and meaſuring more in the length of the body and extent of the wings. This alſo differs in being furniſhed with a projecting, callous, black tubercle, or

knob, on the baſe of the upper mandible, and in the colour of the bill, which in this is red, with black edges and tip: the naked ſkin between the bill and the eyes is alſo of the latter colour: in the Wild Swan this bare ſpace is yellow.

The manners and habits are much the ſame in both kinds, particularly when they are in a wild ſtate; for indeed this ſpecies cannot properly be called domeſticated; they are only as it were partly reclaimed from a ſtate of nature, and invited by the friendly and protecting hand of man to decorate and embelliſh the artificial lakes and pools which beautify his pleaſure grounds. On theſe the Swan cannot be accounted a captive, for he enjoys all the ſweets of liberty. Placed there, as they are the largeſt of all the Britiſh birds, ſo are they to the eye the moſt pleaſing and elegant. What in nature can be more beautiful than the graſſy-margined lake, hung round with the varied foliage of the grove, when contraſted with the pure reſplendent whiteneſs of the majeſtic Swan, wafted along, with erected plumes, by the gentle breeze,—or floating, reflected on the glaſſy ſurface of the water, while he throws himſelf into numberleſs graceful attitudes, as if deſirous of attracting the admiration of the ſpectator?

The Swan, although poſſeſſed of the power to rule, yet moleſts none of the other water-birds, and is ſingularly ſocial and attentive to thoſe of

his own family, which he protects from every inſult. While they are employed with the cares of the young brood, it is not ſafe to approach near them, for they will fly upon any ſtranger, whom they often beat to the ground by repeated blows; and they have been known by a ſtroke of the wing to break a man's leg. But, however powerful they are with their wings, yet a ſlight blow on the head will kill them.

The Swan, for ages paſt, has been protected on the river Thames as royal property; and it continues at this day to be accounted felony to ſteal their eggs. "By this means their increaſe is ſecured, and they prove a delightful ornament to that noble river." Latham ſays, "In the reign of Edward IV. the eſtimation they were held in was ſuch, that no one who poſſeſſed a freehold of leſs than the clear yearly value of five marks, was permitted even to keep any." In thoſe times, hardly a piece of water was left unoccupied by theſe birds, as well on account of the gratification they gave to the eye of their lordly owners, as that which they alſo afforded when they graced the ſumptuous board at the ſplendid feaſts of that period: but the faſhion of thoſe days is paſſed away, and Swans are not nearly ſo common now as they were formerly, being by moſt people accounted a coarſe kind of food, and conſequently held in little eſtimation: but the Cygnets (ſo the young Swans are called) are ſtill

fattened for the table, and are ſold very high, commonly for a guinea each, and ſometimes for more: hence it may be preſumed they are better food than is generally imagined.

This ſpecies is ſaid to be found in great numbers in Ruſſia and Siberia, as well as further ſouthward, in a wild ſtate. They are, without an owner, common on the river Trent, and on the ſalt-water inlet of the ſea, near Abbotſbury, in Dorſetſhire: they are alſo met with on other rivers and lakes in different parts of the Britiſh iſles.

It is the generally received opinion that the Swan lives to a very great age, ſome ſay a century, and others have protracted their lives to three hundred years! Strange as this may appear, there are who credit it: the author, however, does not ſcruple to hazard an opinion, that this over-ſtretched longevity originates only in traditionary tales, or in idle unfounded hear-ſay ſtories; as no one has yet been able to ſay, with certainty, to what age they attain.

The female makes her neſt, concealed among the rough herbage, near the water's edge: ſhe lays from ſix to eight large white eggs, and ſits on them about ſix weeks (ſome ſay eight weeks) before they are hatched. The young do not acquire their full plumage till the ſecond year.

It is found by experience that the Swan will not thrive if kept out of the water: confined in a court yard, he makes an aukward figure, and ſoon becomes dirty, taudry, dull, and ſpiritleſs.

SWAN GOOSE.

CHINESE, SPANISH, GUINEA, OR CAPE GOOSE.

(*Anas Cynoides*, Lin.—*L'Oie de Guinée*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies is more than a yard in length, and is of a ſize between the Swan and the Common Gooſe: it is diſtinguiſhed from others of the Gooſe tribe by its upright and ſtately deportment,—by having a large knob on the root of the upper mandible, and a ſkin, almoſt bare of feathers, hanging down like a pouch, or a wattle, under the throat: a white line or fillet is extended from the corners of the mouth over the front of the brow: the baſe of the bill is orange: irides reddiſh brown: a dark brown or black ſtripe runs down the hinder part of the neck, from the head to the back; the fore part of the neck, and the breaſt, are yellowiſh brown: the back, and all the upper parts, brownish grey, edged with a lighter colour: the ſides, and the feathers which cover the thighs, are clouded nearly of the ſame colours as the back, and edged with white: belly white: legs orange.

It is ſaid that theſe birds originally were found in Guinea only: the breed has, however, now become pretty common, and they are widely diſperſed, in a wild as well as a domeſticated ſtate, over various parts of the world, both in warm and in cold climates. They are found wild about the lake

Baikal, in the eaſt of Siberia, and in Kamtſchatka; * and they are kept tame in moſt parts of the Ruſſian empire.

Theſe Geeſe, like others of the tame kind, vary much both in the colour of the bill, legs, and plumage, as well as in ſize; but they all retain the knob on the baſe of the upper mandible, and the pouch or wattle under the gullet. They are kept by the curious in various parts of England, and are more noiſy than the Common Gooſe: nothing can ſtir either in the night or in the day without their ſounding the alarm, by their hoarſe cacklings and loud ſhrill cries. They breed with the Common Gooſe, and their offspring are as prolific as thoſe of any other kind. The female is of a ſmaller ſize than the male; "the head, neck, and breaſt are fulvous; paler on the upper part: the back, wings, and tail, dull brown, with pale edges: belly white: in other reſpects they are like the male, but the knob over the bill is ſmaller."

* Arctic Zoology.



CANADA GOOSE,

OR CRAVAT GOOSE.

(*Anas Canadenſis.—L'Oie à cravate*, Buff.)

THIS is leſs than the Swan-Gooſe, but taller and longer than the Common Gooſe, and may be conſidered as the connecting link between that ſpecies and the Swan. Their average weight is about nine pounds, and the length about three feet ſix inches. The bill is black, and two inches and a half long: irides hazel: the head and neck are alſo black, with a creſcent-ſhaped white band on the throat, which tapers off to a point on each ſide below the cheeks, to the hinder part of the head: the whiteneſs of this cravat is heightened by its contraſt with the dark ſurrounding plumage, and it looks very pretty: this mark alſo diſtinguiſhes it from others of the Gooſe tribe. All the upper parts of the plumage, the breaſt, and a portion of the belly, are of a dull brown, ſometimes mixed with grey: the lower part of the neck, the belly, vent, and upper tail coverts, white: quills and tail black: legs dingy blue.

This is another uſeful ſpecies which has been reclaimed from a ſtate of nature, domeſticated and multiplied in many parts of Europe, particularly in France and Germany; and it is not very uncommon in England. It is as familiar, breeds as freely,

and is in every reſpect as valuable as the Common Gooſe: it is alſo accounted a great ornament on ponds near gentlemen's ſeats. Buffon ſays—"Within theſe few years, many hundreds inhabited the great canal at Verſailles, where they lived familiarly with the Swans; they were oftener on the graſſy margins than in the water. There is at preſent a great number of them on the magnificent pools that decorate the charming gardens of Chantilly." The wild ſtock whence theſe birds were taken are found in the northern parts of America; they are one of thoſe immenſe families which, when aſſociated with others of the ſame genus, are ſaid, at certain ſeaſons, to darken the air like a cloud, and to ſpread themſelves over the lakes and ſwamps in innumerable multitudes.

Mr Pennant, in his Arctic Zoology, gives the following intereſting account of the mode of taking the Canada Gooſe in Hudſon's Bay:—

"The Engliſh of Hudſon's Bay depend greatly on Geeſe, of theſe and other kinds, for their ſupport; and, in favourable years, kill three or four thouſand, which they ſalt and barrel. Their arrival is impatiently attended; it is the harbinger of the ſpring, and the month named by the Indians the *Gooſe* moon. They appear uſually at our ſettlements in numbers, about St George's day, O. S. and fly northward to neſtle in ſecurity. They prefer iſlands to the continent, as further from the

haunts of men. Thus Marble Iſland was found, in Auguſt, to ſwarm with Swans, Geeſe, and Ducks; the old ones moulting, and the young at that time incapable of flying.

"The Engliſh ſend out their ſervants, as well as Indians, to ſhoot theſe birds on their paſſage. It is in vain to purſue them: they therefore form a row of huts made of boughs, at muſquet-ſhot diſtance from each other, and place them in a line acroſs the vaſt marſhes of the country. Each hovel, or, as they are called, *ſtand*, is occupied by only a ſingle perſon. Theſe attend the flight of the birds, and, on their approach, mimic their cackle ſo well, that the Geeſe will anſwer, and wheel and come nearer the ſtand. The ſportſman keeps motionleſs, and on his knees, with his gun cocked, the whole time; and never fires till he has ſeen the eyes of the Geeſe. He fires as they are going from him, then picks up another gun that lies by him, and diſcharges that. The Geeſe which he has killed, he ſets up on ſticks as if alive, to decoy others; he alſo makes artificial birds for the ſame purpoſe. In a good day (for they fly in very uncertain and unequal numbers) a ſingle Indian will kill two hundred. Notwithſtanding every ſpecies of Gooſe has a different call, yet the Indians are admirable in their imitation of every one.

"The vernal flight of the Geeſe laſts from the middle of April until the middle of May. Their

firſt appearance coincides with the thawing of the ſwamps, when they are very lean. The autumnal, or the ſeaſon of their return with their young, is from the middle of Auguſt to the middle of October. Thoſe which are taken in this latter ſeaſon, when the froſts uſually begin, are preſerved in their feathers, and left to be frozen for the freſh proviſions of the winter ſtock. The feathers conſtitute an article of commerce, and are ſent into England."



EGYPTIAN GOOSE.

GANSER, OR GAMBO GOOSE.

(*Anas Ægyptiaca*, Lin.—*L'Oie d'Egypte*, Buff.)

THIS beautifully variegated ſpecies is nearly of the ſize of the Grey Lag, or common Wild Gooſe. The bill red, about two inches in length, tip black, and noſtrils duſky: eye-lids red, and the irides pale yellow: the throat, cheeks, and upper part of the head are white: a ruſty cheſnut-coloured patch on each ſide of the head ſurrounds the eyes. About two-thirds of the neck, from the head downwards, is of a pale reddiſh bay colour, darker at the lower end: a broad deep cheſnut-coloured ſpot covers the middle of the breaſt: the ſhoulders and ſcapulars are of a reddiſh brown, prettily croſſed with numerous dark waved lines: the wing-coverts are white; the greater ones barred near their tips with black: the ſecondary quills are tinged with reddiſh bay, and bordered with cheſnut; thoſe of the primaries which join them are edged with gloſſy green, and the reſt of the firſt quills are black: the lower part of the back, the rump, and tail, are black: the belly is white, but all the other fore parts, and ſides of the body, from the neck to near the vent, are delicately pencilled with narrow ruſt-coloured zig-zag lines on a pale aſh-grey ground: each wing is furniſhed on the bend with a ſhort blunt ſpur. The

colours of the female are pretty much the ſame as thoſe of the male, but not by any means ſo bright or diſtinctly marked.

This kind is common in a wild ſtate in Egypt, at the Cape of Good Hope, and in various parts of the intermediate territories of Africa, whence they have been brought into, and domeſticated in this and other civilized countries, and are now an admired ornament on many pieces of water contiguous to gentlemen's ſeats; but neither the author nor his correſpondents were able to procure a ſpecimen of this or the two preceding ſpecies, for the purpoſe of making drawings.





RED-BREASTED GOOSE,

OR SIBERIAN GOOSE.

(*Anſer ruficollis.*)

THE Red-breaſted Gooſe meaſures above twenty inches in length, and its extended wings three feet ten in breadth. The bill is ſhort, of a brown colour, with the nail black: irides yellowiſh hazel: the cheeks and brow are duſky, ſpeckled with white: an oval white ſpot occupies the ſpace between the bill and the eyes, and is bounded above, on each ſide of the head, by a black line which falls down

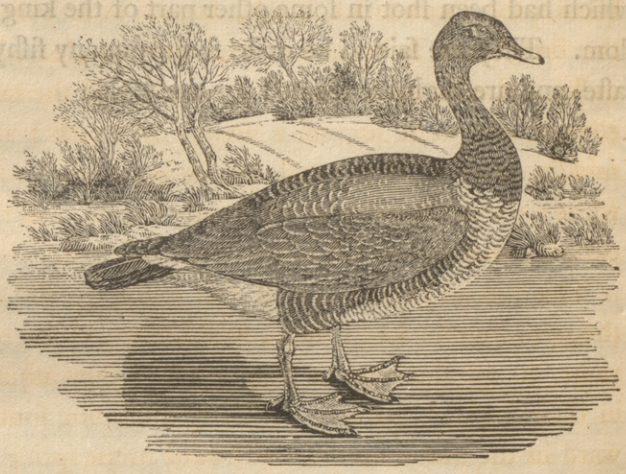
the hinder part of the neck: the chin, throat, crown of the head, and hinder part of the neck to the back, are black: two ſtripes of white fall down from behind each eye, on the ſides of the neck, and meet in the middle: the other parts of the neck, and the upper part of the breaſt, are of a deep ruſty red, and the latter is terminated by two narrow bands of white and black: the back and wings are duſky; the greater coverts edged with grey: ſides and lower part of the breaſt, black: belly, upper and under tail coverts, white: legs duſky.

This beautiful ſpecies is a native of Ruſſia and Siberia, whence they migrate ſouthward in the autumn, and return in the ſpring: they are ſaid to frequent the Caſpian ſea, and are ſuppoſed to winter in Perſia. They are very rare in this country, only three of them (ſo far as the author's knowledge extends) having ever been met with in it, and thoſe all by the late M. Tunſtall, Eſq. of Wycliffe, in Yorkſhire, in whoſe valuable muſeum the firſt of theſe birds, in high preſervation, was placed. * It was ſhot near London in the beginning of the hard froſt in the year 1766; and another of them was about the ſame time taken alive near Wycliffe, and kept there for ſeveral years in a pond among the Ducks, where it became quite tame and familiar. Mr Tunſtall informed Mr Latham of theſe particu-

* The foregoing figure was taken from this ſpecimen.

lars, and alſo mentioned a third of the ſame kind, which had been ſhot in ſome other part of the kingdom. They are ſaid to be quite free from any fiſhy taſte, and are highly eſteemed for the table.





GREY LAG GOOSE,

OR COMMON WILD GOOSE.

(*Anas Anſer*, Lin.—*L'Oie ſauvage*, Buff.)

THIS Wild Gooſe generally weighs about ten pounds, and meaſures two feet nine inches in length, and five in breadth. The bill is thick at the baſe, tapers towards the tip, and is of a yellowiſh red colour, with the nail white: the head and neck are of a cinereous brown, tinged with dull yellow, and from the ſeparations of the feathers, the latter appears ſtriped downwards: the upper part of the plumage is of a deep brown, mixed with aſh-grey; each feather is lighter on the edges, and the leſſer coverts are tipped with white: the ſhafts of the pri-

mary quills are white, the webs grey, and the tips black: the ſecondaries black, edged with white: the breaſt and belly are croſſed and clouded with duſky and aſh on a whitiſh ground; and the tail-coverts and vent are of a ſnowy whiteneſs: the middle feathers of the tail are duſky, tipped with white; thoſe adjoining more deeply tipped, and the exterior ones nearly all white: legs pale red.

This ſpecies is common in this country, and although large flocks of them, well known to the curious, in all the various ſhapes which they aſſume in their flight, * are ſeen regularly migrating ſouthward in the autumn, and northward in the ſpring, †

* The elevated and marſhalled flight of the Wild Geeſe ſeems dictated by geometrical inſtinct—ſhaped like a wedge, they cut the air with leſs individual exertion; and it is conjectured, that the change of its form from an inverted V, an A, an L, or a ſtraight line, is occaſioned by the leader of the van's quitting his poſt at the point of the angle through fatigue, dropping into the rear, and leaving his place to be occupied by another.

† A gentleman in the county of Durham, one morning in the month of April, obſerved a flock of Wild Geeſe going northward, in the line of two objects whoſe diſtance he knew to be four miles: he found by his watch the exact time they were in flying this diſtance; from which he calculated, that if they continued to fly at the ſame rate for twelve hours, they would be at the Orkneys by ſun-ſet, which is twenty-five miles an hour. But it is not probable that theſe birds ever migrate from the fens in Cambridgeſhire, &c. to the Orkneys, or other

yet ſeveral of them are known to remain and breed in the fens of Lincolnſhire and Cambridgeſhire, and, it is ſaid, in various other parts of Great Britain. Pennant ſays they reſide in the fens the whole year, breed there, and hatch about eight or nine young ones, which are often taken, eaſily made tame, and much more eſteemed for the excellent flavour of their fleſh than the domeſtic Gooſe: he adds, "The old Geeſe which are ſhot are plucked and ſold in the market as fine tame ones, and readily bought, the purchaſer being deceived by the ſize; but their fleſh is coarſe." *

This ſpecies is widely and numerouſly ſpread over all the various parts of the northern world, whence ſome flocks of them migrate a long way ſouthward in the winter. Latham ſays they ſeem to be general inhabitants of the globe, are met with from Lapland to the Cape of Good Hope,—are frequent in Arabia, Perſia, and China, as well as indigenous to

places where they breed, in one day, or at one flight; for great numbers of them are known to ſtop for ſeveral days, both in going and coming back again, at the mouth of the Tees, Preſtwick-Car, the haughs of the river Till, near Wooler in Northumberland, and at ſome places in the Merſe in Scotland.

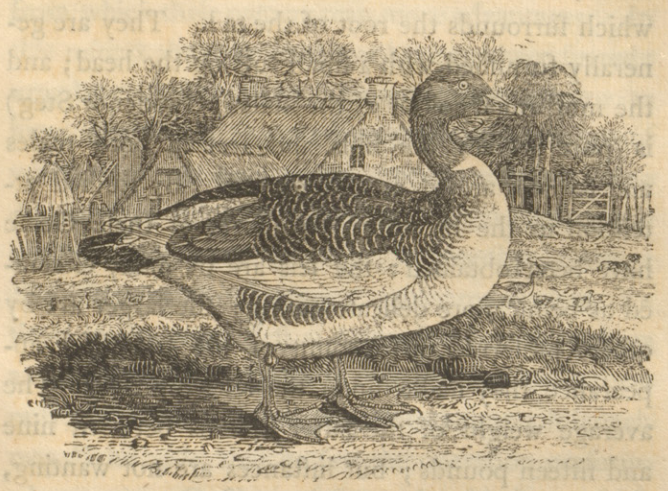
* This is the caſe with all very old Geeſe, both tame and wild; but the fleſh of a middle-aged one of the latter ſort, in the ſpring of the year, when the bird is in full feather, is very tender, finely flavoured, and nowiſe like that of the Tame Gooſe either in taſte or colour.

Japan,—and on the American continent from Hudſon's Bay to South Carolina: he alſo obſerves that our voyagers have met with them in the Straits of Magellan, Port Egmont in the Falkland Iſlands, Terra del Fuego, and New Holland. There can be little doubt about the territories aſſigned to them for their ſummer reſidences and breeding places; the lakes, ſwamps, and dreary moraſſes of Siberia, Lapland, Iceland, and the unfrequented or unknown northern regions of America ſeem ſet apart for that purpoſe, where, with multitudes of other kinds, in undiſturbed ſecurity they rear their young, and are amply provided with a variety of food, a large portion of which muſt conſiſt of the larvæ of the gnats which ſwarm in thoſe parts, and the myriads of inſects that are foſtered by the unſetting ſun. Pennant ſays that theſe Wild Geeſe appear in Hudſon's Bay early in May, as ſoon as the ice diſappears;—collect in flocks of twenty or thirty, ſtay about three weeks, then ſeparate in pairs, and take off to breed; that about the middle of Auguſt they return to the marſhes with their young, and continue there till September. Some of them are caught and brought alive to the factories, where they are fed with corn, and thrive greatly.

Wild Geeſe are very deſtructive to the growing corn in the fields where they happen to halt in their migratory excurſions. In ſome countries they are caught at thoſe ſeaſons in long nets, reſembling

thoſe uſed for catching Larks: to theſe nets the Wild Geeſe are decoyed by tame ones placed there for that purpoſe. Many other ſchemes are contrived to take theſe wary birds; but as they feed only in the day-time, and betake themſelves to the water at night, the fowler muſt exert his utmoſt care and ingenuity in order to accompliſh his ends: all muſt be planned in the dark, and every trace of ſuſpicion removed; for nothing can exceed the vigilant circumſpection and acute ear of the ſentinel, who, placed on ſome eminence, with out-ſtretched neck, ſurveys every thing that moves within the circle of the centre on which he takes his ſtand; and the inſtant he ſounds the alarm, the whole flock betake themſelves to flight.





TAME GOOSE.

(*Anas Anſer*, Lin.—*L'Oye domeſtique*, Buff.)

To deſcribe the varied plumage and the economy of this well-known valuable domeſtic fowl, may ſeem to many a needleſs taſk; but to others, unacquainted with rural affairs, it may be intereſting.* Their predominant colours are white and grey, with ſhades of aſh, blue, and brown: ſome of them are yellowiſh, others duſky, and many are found to differ very little in appearance from the wild kind laſt deſcribed—the original ſtock whence, in early times, they were all derived. The only permanent mark, which all the grey ones ſtill

* A certain town lady wondered how a Gooſe could ſuckle nine Goſlings.

retain, like thoſe of the wild kind, is the white ring which ſurrounds the root of the tail. They are generally furniſhed with a ſmall tuft on the head; and the moſt uſual colour of the males (Gander or Steg) is pure white: the bills and feet in both males and females are of an orange red. By ſtudied attention in the breeding, two ſorts of theſe Geeſe have been obtained: the leſs are by many eſteemed as being more delicate eating; the larger are by others preferred on account of the bountiful appearance they make upon the feſtive board. The average weight of the latter kind is between nine and fifteen pounds; but inſtances are not wanting, where they have been fed to upwards of twenty pounds: this is, however, to ſacrifice the flavour of the food to the ſize and appearance of the bird, for they become diſguſtingly fat and ſurfeiting, and the methods uſed to cram them up are unnatural and cruel. It is not, however, altogether on account of their uſe as food that they are valuable; their feathers, their down, and their quills, * have long

* "An Engliſh archer bent his bow,
"Made of a truſty tree,—
"An arrow of a cloth-yard long,
"Unto the head, drew he:
"Againſt Sir Hugh Montgomery
"So right his ſhaft he ſet,
"The grey Gooſe wing that was thereon
"In his heart's blood was wet."

CHEVY CHACE.

been conſidered as articles of more importance, and from which their owners reap more advantages. In this reſpect the poor creatures have not been ſpared: urged by avarice, their inhuman maſters appear to have aſcertained the exact quantity of plumage of which they can bear to be robbed, without being deprived of life. Mr Pennant, in deſcribing the methods uſed in Lincolnſhire, in breeding, rearing, and plucking Geeſe, ſays "they are plucked five times in the year; firſt at Lady-day for the feathers and quills: this buſineſs is renewed for the feathers only, four times more between that and Michaelmas:" he adds, that he ſaw the operation performed even upon Goſlings of ſix weeks old, from which the feathers of the tails were plucked; and that numbers of the Geeſe die when the ſeaſon afterwards proves cold. But this unfeeling greedy buſineſs is not peculiar to one county, for much the ſame is practiſed in others. The care and attention beſtowed upon the brood Geeſe, while they are engaged in the buſineſs of incubation, in the month of April, is nearly the ſame every where: wicker pens are provided for them, placed in rows, and tier above tier, not uncommonly under the ſame roof as their owner. Some place water and corn near the neſts; others drive them to the water twice a-day, and replace each female upon her own neſt as ſoon as ſhe returns. This buſineſs requires the attendance of the Gozzard (Gooſe-herd) a month at leaſt, in which

time the young are brought forth: as ſoon afterwards as the brood are able to waddle along, they are, together with their dams, driven to the contiguous loughs, and fens or marſhes, on whoſe graſſy-margined pools they feed and thrive, without requiring any further attendance until the autumn. To theſe marſhes, which otherwiſe would be unoccupied, (except by wild birds) and be only uſeleſs watery waſtes, we are principally indebted for ſo great a ſupply of the Gooſe; for in almoſt every country where lakes and marſhes abound, the neighbouring inhabitants keep as many as ſuit their convenience, and in this way immenſe numbers annually attain to full growth and perfection. But in no part of the world are ſuch numbers reared as in the fens of Lincolnſhire, where it is ſaid to be no uncommon thing for a ſingle perſon to keep a thouſand old Geeſe, each of which, on an average, will bring up ſeven young ones. So far thoſe only are noticed which may properly be called the larger flocks, by which particular watery diſtricts are peopled; and, although their aggregate numbers are great, yet they form only a part of the large family: thoſe of the farm-yard, taken ſeparately, appear as ſmall ſpecks on a great map; but when they are gathered together, and added to thoſe kept by almoſt every cottager throughout the kingdom, the immenſe whole will appear multiplied in a ratio almoſt incalculable. A great part of thoſe

which are left to provide for themſelves during the ſummer, in the ſolitary diſtant waters, as well as thoſe which enliven the village green, are put into the ſtubble fields after harveſt, to fatten upon the ſcattered grain; and ſome are penned up for this purpoſe, by which they attain to greater bulk; and it is hardly neceſſary to obſerve, that they are then poured in weekly upon the tables of the luxurious citizens of every town in the kingdom. But theſe diſtant and divided ſupplies ſeem trifling when compared with the multitudes which, in the ſeaſon, are driven in all directions into the metropolis: * the former appear only like the ſcanty waterings of the ſmall ſtreamlet; the latter like the copious overflowing torrent of a large river. To the country market towns they are carried in bags and panniers; to the great centre of trade they are ſent in droves of many thouſands. † To a ſtranger it is a moſt curious ſpectacle to view theſe hiſſing, cackling, gabbling, but peaceful armies, with grave deportment, waddling along (like other armies) to certain deſtruction. The drivers are each provided with a long ſtick, at one end of which a red rag is

* In ancient times they were driven in much the ſame way, from the interior of Gaul to Rome.

† In an article which Mr Latham has copied from the St James's Chronicle of September 2d, 1783, it is noticed, that a drove of about nine thouſand Geeſe paſſed through Chelmsford on their way to London, from Suffolk.

tied as a lash, and a hook is fixed at the other: with the former, of which the Geese seem much afraid, they are excited forward; and with the latter, such as attempt to stray, are caught by the neck and kept in order; or if lame, they are put into an *hospital cart*, which usually follows each large drove. In this manner they perform their journies from distant parts, and are said to get forward at the rate of eight or ten miles in a day, from three in the morning till nine at night: those which become fatigued are fed with oats, and the rest with barley.

It is universally believed that the Goose lives to a great age, and particular instances are recorded by ornithologists, which confirm the fact: some are mentioned which have been kept seventy years; and Wilbughby notices one which lived eighty years. They are, however, seldom permitted to live out their natural life, being sold with the younger ones long before they approach that period. The old ones are called *cagmags*, and are bought only by novices in market-making; for, from their toughness, they are utterly unfit for the table.

The Tame Goose lays from seven to twelve eggs, and sometimes more: these the careful housewife divides equally among her brood Geese, when they begin to sit. Those of her Geese which lay a second time in the course of the summer, are seldom, if ever, permitted to have a second hatching; but the

eggs are uſed for houſehold purpoſes. In ſome countries the domeſtic Geeſe require much leſs care and attendance than thoſe of this country. Biffon, in his elegant and voluminous Ornithology, in which nothing is omitted, gives a particular detail of their hiſtory and economy every where: he informs us, that among the villages of the Coſſacks, ſubject to Ruſſia, on the river Don, the Geeſe leave their homes, in March or April, as ſoon as the ice breaks up, and the pairs joining each other, take flight in a body to the remote northern lakes, where they breed and conſtantly reſide during the ſummer; and that on the beginning of winter, the parent birds, with their multiplied young progeny, all return, and divide themſelves, every flock alighting at the door of the reſpective place to which it belongs.

The Gooſe has for many ages been celebrated on account of its vigilance. The ſtory of their ſaving Rome by the alarm they gave, when the Gauls were attempting the capitol, * is well known, and was probably the firſt time of their watchfulneſs being recorded; and, on that account, they were afterwards held in the higheſt eſtimation by the Roman people. It is certain, that nothing can ſtir in the night, nor the leaſt or moſt diſtant noiſe be made, but the Geeſe are roufed, and immediately

* As the poet ſings—Et ſervaturis vigili capitolia voce Anſeribus.

begin to hold their cackling converſe; and on the nearer approach of apprehended danger, they ſet up their more ſhrill and clamorous cries. It is on account of this property that they are eſteemed by many perſons as the moſt vigilant of all ſentinels, when placed in particular ſituations.



WHITE-FRONTED WILD GOOSE,

OR LAUGHING GOOSE.

(*Anas albifrons.*—*L'Oye rieuſe*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies meaſures two feet four inches in length, and four feet ſix in the extended wings, and weighs about five pounds. The bill is thick at the baſe, of a yellowiſh red colour; the nail white: from the baſe of the bill and corners of the mouth, a white patch is extended over the forehead: the reſt of the head, neck, and upper parts of the plumage are dark brown: the primary and ſecondary quills are of the ſame colour, but much darker; and the wing coverts are tinged with aſh: the breaſt and belly are dirty white, ſpotted with duſky: the tail is of a hoary aſh-coloured brown, and ſurrounded, like the Lag Gooſe's, with a white ring at the baſe: the legs yellow.

Theſe birds form a part of thoſe vaſt tribes which ſwarm about Hudſon's Bay, and the north of Europe and Aſia, during the ſummer months, and are but thinly ſcattered over the other quarters of the world. They viſit the fens and marſhy places in England, in ſmall flocks, in the winter months, and diſappear about the beginning of March. It is ſaid that they never feed on the corn-fields, but confine themſelves wholly to ſuch wilds and ſwamps as are conſtantly covered with water.

BEAN GOOSE.

This ſpecies differs very little in its general appearance from the Grey Lag Gooſe, the chief diſtinction between them being in the bill; which in this is ſmall, much compreſſed near the end, whitiſh, and ſometimes of a pale red in the middle, and black at the baſe and nail: the latter is ſhaped ſomewhat like a horſe-bean, from which it has obtained the name of Bean Gooſe. The length of this bird is two feet ſeven inches; breadth four feet eleven; its weight about ſix pounds and a half. The head and neck are of a cinereous brown colour, tinged with ferruginous: breaſt and belly dirty white, clouded with cinereous: ſides and ſcapulars dark aſh, edged with white: the back of a plain aſh-colour: coverts of the tail white: leſſer coverts of the wings light grey, nearly white; the middle deeper, tipped with white: primaries and ſecondaries grey, tipped with black: feet and legs ſaffron colour: claws black.

Theſe birds arrive in the fen counties in the autumn, and take their departure in May. They are ſaid to alight in the corn-fields, and to feed much upon the green wheat, while they remain in England. They are reported to breed in great numbers in the Iſle of Lewis, and no doubt on others of the Hebrides, and alſo at Hudſon's Bay.



BERNACLE,

CLAKIS, OR TREE GOOSE.

(*Anas Erythropus*, Lin.—*La Bernache*, Buff.)

THE Bernacle weighs about five pounds, and meaſures more than two feet in length, and nearly four and a half in breadth. The bill, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, is ſcarcely an inch and a half long, black, and croſſed with a pale reddiſh ſtreak on each ſide: a narrow black line paſſes from the bill to the eyes, the irides of which are brown: the head is ſmall, and as far as the crown, together with the cheeks and throat, white: the reſt of the head and neck, to the breaſt and ſhoulders, is black. The upper part of the plumage is prettily marbled or barred with blue grey, black, and white: the

feathers of the back are black, edged with white, and thoſe of the wing coverts and ſcapulars, blue grey, bordered with black near their margins, and edged with white: the quills black, edged a little way from the tips with blue grey: the under parts and tail coverts white: the thighs are marked with duſky lines or ſpots, and are black near the knees: the tail is black, and five inches and a half long: the legs and feet duſky, very thick and ſhort, and have a ſtumpy appearance.

In ſevere winters, theſe birds are not uncommon in this kingdom, particularly on the northern and weſtern parts, where, however, they remain only a ſhort time, but depart early in the ſpring to their northern wilds, to breed and ſpend the ſummer.

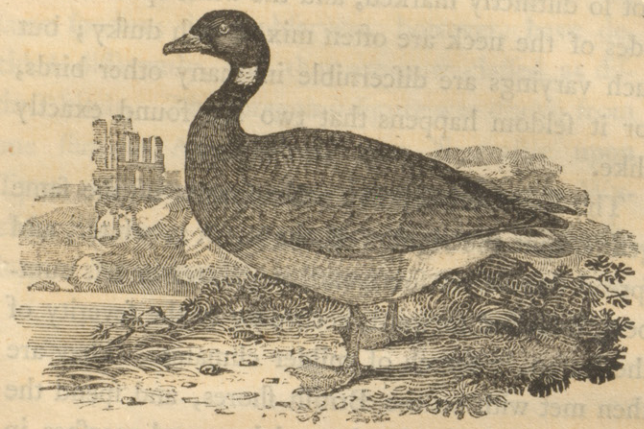
The hiſtory of the Bernacle has been rendered remarkable by the marvellous accounts which were in former times related concerning their propagation, or rather their growth. Almoſt all the old naturaliſts, as well ornithologiſts as others, aſſert that they were produced from ſhells which grew out of rotten ſhip-wrecked timber, and other kinds of wood and trees which lay under water, in the ſea, and that theſe ſhells owed their origin to "ſpume or froth," which in a ſhort time, aſſumed a fungous appearance upon the wood: others affirmed that they were produced from the palms or fruits of a tree like the willow, which, when ripe, dropped off into the water, and became alive, &c. Trea-

tiſes were written expreſsly on theſe chimerical principles, giving a particular deſcription of their firſt appearance, progreſſive growth, birth, (or final excluſion from the ſhell) and of their dropping into the ſea, ſwimming about, and becoming perfectly feathered birds, &c. Other authors, indeed, leſs credulous, ſuſpected the truth of theſe aſſertions: Belon was of the number of thoſe who laughed at the ſtory in his day; and Willoughby, long after him, treated ſuch incoherent narratives with contempt. It muſt excite regret, that ſo reſpectable, ſo learned, and ſo grave an author as Gerard, ſhould not only have believed this wonderful transformation, but that he ſhould have introduced the idle tale into his invaluable Herbal.* But even to enume-

* See Gerard's Herbal, publiſhed in 1597, article—"The *Gooſe-tree*," which he ſeems to have reſerved for the concluſion of his work, as being the moſt wonderful of all he had to deſcribe. A ſmall iſland called the Pile of Foulders, half a mile from the main land of Lancaſhire, he ſays, is the native ſoil of "*the Tree bearing Geeſe*," and ſo plentiful is the fruit, that a full-grown bird is ſold for three-pence. The honeſt naturaliſt, however, although his belief was fixed, admits that his own perſonal knowledge was confined to certain ſhells which adhered to a rotten tree that he dragged from the ſea between Dover and Romney, in ſome of which he found "liuing things without forme or ſhape; in others which were neerer come to ripenes, liuing things that were very naked, in ſhape like a birde: in others, the birds couered with ſoft downe, the ſhell halfe open, and the birde readie to fall out, which no doubt were the foules called Barnakles."

rate these authors, or to quote the entertaining parts of the wild whimsies with which they have embellished their descriptions of these birds, would far exceed the limits of this work, and would only serve to prove (were that necessary) how credulous, not only the great unthinking mass, but even the philosophers once were, and how far it was possible for such circumstantially told miracles to lay the understandings of mankind fast asleep. Bartholin discovered that these Goose-bearing conches contained only a shell-fish of a particular kind, a species of multivalve—the *Pousse-pieds* of Wormius and Lobel, and the *Lepas Anatifera* of Linnæus.





BRENT GOOSE.

(*Anas Bernicla*, Lin.—*Le Cravant*, Buff.)

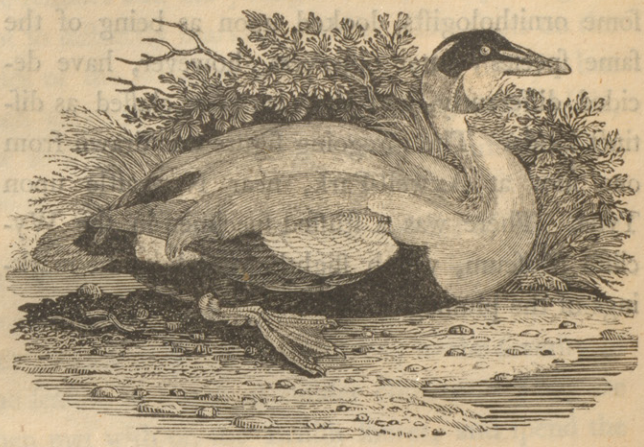
THIS is of nearly the ſame ſhape, but ſomewhat leſs than the laſt, from which it differs in the colour of its plumage, being moſtly of an uniform brown, the feathers edged with aſh: the upper parts, breaſt and neck, are darker than the belly, which is more mixed and dappled with paler cinereous and grey: the head and upper half of the neck are black, excepting a white patch on each ſide of the latter, near the throat: the lower part of the back and rump are alſo black: the tail coverts above and below, and the vent, white: tail, quills, and legs duſky: the bill is dark, rather of a narrow ſhape, and only about an inch and a half long: the irides are light hazel. In

the females and the younger birds, the plumage is not ſo diſtinctly marked, and the white ſpots on the ſides of the neck are often mixed with duſky; but ſuch varyings are diſcernible in many other birds, for it ſeldom happens that two are found exactly alike.

The Brent Geeſe, like other ſpecies of the ſame genus, quit the rigours of the north in winter, and ſpread themſelves ſouthward in greater or leſs numbers, impelled forward, according to the ſeverity of the ſeaſon, in ſearch of milder climates. They are then met with on the Britiſh ſhores, and ſpend the winter months in the rivers, lakes, and marſhes in the interior parts, feeding moſtly upon the roots, and alſo on the blades of the long coarſe graſſes and plants which grow in the water: but indeed their varied modes of living, as well as their other habits and propenſities, and their migrations, haltings, breeding places, &c. do not differ materially from thoſe of the other numerous families of the Wild Geeſe. Buffon gives a detail of the devaſtations which they made, in the hard winters of 1740 and 1765, upon the corn fields, on the coaſts of Picardy, in France, where they appeared in ſuch immenſe ſwarms, that the people were literally raiſed (*en maſſe* we ſuppoſe) in order to attempt their extirpation, which, however, it ſeems they could not effect, and a change in the weather only, cauſed theſe unwelcome viſitants to depart.

The Brent and the Bernacle were formerly, by ſome ornithologiſts, looked upon as being of the ſame ſpecies; later obſervers, however, have decided differently, and they are now claſſed as diſtinct kinds. The foregoing figure was drawn from one ſhot at Axwell-Park, near Newcaſtle upon Tyne. There was a ſtuffed ſpecimen in the Wycliffe Muſeum, which ſlightly varied in the markings of the plumage.





EIDER DUCK.

ST CUTHBERT'S DUCK, OR GREAT BLACK AND WHITE DUCK.

(*Anas molliſſima.*—*L'Eider*, Buff.)

THIS wild, but valuable, ſpecies is of a ſize between the Gooſe and the domeſtic Duck, and appears to be one of the graduated links of the chain which connects the two kinds. The full-grown old males generally meaſure about two feet two inches in length, and two feet eighteen in breadth, and weigh from ſix to above ſeven pounds. The head is large; the middle of the neck ſmall, with the lower part of it ſpread out very broad, ſo as to form a hollow between the ſhoulders, which, while the bird is ſitting at eaſe, ſeems as if fitted to receive its reclining head. The bill

is of a dirty yellowiſh horn colour, darkiſh in the middle, and meaſures, from the tip to the corners of the mouth, two inches and a half: the upper mandible is forked in a ſingular manner towards each eye, and is covered with white feathers on the ſides, as far forward as the noſtrils. The upper part of the head is of a ſoft velvet black, divided behind by a dull white ſtroke pointing downwards: the feathers, from the nape of the neck to the throat, are long, or puffed out, overhanging the upper part of the neck, and look as if they had been clipped off at the lower ends; they have the appearance of pale pea-green velvet ſhag, with a white line dropping downward from the auriculars on each ſide. The cheeks, chin, upper part of the neck, back, and leſſer wing coverts, are white: the ſcapulars, and ſecondary quills, next the body, dirty white: baſtard wings, and primary quills, brown; the ſecondaries and greater coverts are the ſame, but much darker: the lower broad part of the neck, on the front, to the breaſt, is of a buff colour; but in ſome ſpecimens tinged with ruſty red: the breaſt, belly, vent, rump, and tail coverts, are of a deep ſooty black: tail feathers hoary brown: legs ſhort, and yellow: webs and nails duſky. The female is nearly of the ſame ſhape, though leſs than the male, weighing only between five and ſix pounds; but her plumage is quite different, the ground colour being of a reddiſh brown,

prettily croſſed with waved black lines; and in ſome ſpecimens the neck, breaſt, and belly, are tinged with aſh: the wings are croſſed with two bars of white: quills dark: the neck is marked with longitudinal duſky ſtreaks, and the belly is deep brown, ſpotted obſcurely with black.

The Eider Duck lays from three to five large, ſmooth, pale olive-coloured eggs; theſe ſhe depoſits and conceals in a neſt, or bed, made of a great quantity of the ſoft, warm, elaſtic down, plucked from her own breaſt, and ſometimes from that of her mate. The ground-work or foundation of the neſt is formed of bent-graſs, ſea-weeds, or ſuch like coarſe materials, and it is placed in as ſheltered a ſpot as the bleak and ſolitary place can afford.

In Greenland, Iceland, Spitzbergen, Lapland, and ſome parts of the coaſts of Norway, the Eiders flock together, in particular breeding places, in ſuch numbers, and their neſts are ſo cloſe together, that a perſon in walking along can hardly avoid treading upon them. The natives of theſe cold climates eagerly watch the time when the firſt hatchings of the eggs are laid: of theſe they rob the neſt, and alſo of the more important article, the down with which it is lined, which they carefully gather and carry off. Theſe birds will afterwards ſtrip themſelves of their remaining down, and lay a ſecond hatching, of which alſo they are ſometimes robbed: but, it is ſaid, that when this cruel treat-

ment is too often repeated, they leave the place, and return to it no more. * The quantity of this valu-

* The following particulars, from Von Troil's Letters on Iceland, are given, on account of the ſingular trait of character which is mentioned—that of two females occupying only one neſt:—

"The Eider birds build their neſts on little iſlands not far from the ſhore, and ſometimes even near the dwellings of the natives, who treat them with ſuch kindneſs and circumſpection as to make them quite tame. In the beginning of June they lay five or ſix eggs, and it is not unuſual to find from ten to ſixteen eggs in one neſt, with two females, who agree remarkably well together. The whole time of laying continues ſix or ſeven weeks, during which time the natives viſit the neſt, for the purpoſe of taking the down and eggs, at leaſt once a week. They firſt carefully remove the female, and then take away the down and part of the eggs; after which ſhe lays afreſh, covering her eggs with new down plucked from her breaſt: this being taken away, the male comes to her aſſiſtance, and covers the eggs with his down, which is left till the young are hatched. One female, during the whole time of laying, generally gives half a pound of down. The down from dead birds is accounted of little worth, having loſt its elaſticity. There are generally exported fifteen hundred or two thouſand pounds of down on the company's account, excluſive of what is privately ſold.—The young ones quit the neſt ſoon after they are hatched, and follow the female, who leads them to the water, where, having taken them on her back, ſhe ſwims with them a few yards, and then dives, and leaves them floating on the water: in this ſituation they ſoon learn to take care of themſelves, and are ſeldom afterwards ſeen on the land, but live among the rocks, and feed on inſects and ſea-weed."

able commodity, which is thus annually collected in various parts, is uncertain. Buffon mentions one particular year, in which the Icelandic company ſold as much as amounted to upwards of eight hundred and fifty pounds ſterling. This, however, muſt be only a ſmall portion of the produce, which is all ſold by the hardy natives, to ſtuff the couches of the pampered citizens of more poliſhed nations.

The great body of theſe birds conſtantly reſides in the remote northern, frozen climates, the rigours of which their thick cloathing well enables them to bear. They are ſaid to keep together in flocks in the open parts of the ſea, fiſhing and diving very deep in queſt of ſhell-fiſh and other food, with which the bottom is covered, and when they have ſatisfied themſelves, they retire to the ſhore, whither they at all times repair for ſhelter, on the approach of a ſtorm. Other leſs numerous flocks of the Eiders branch out, colonize, and breed further ſouthward in both Europe and America: they are found on the promontories and numerous iſles of the coaſt of Norway, and on thoſe of the northern, and the Hebrides or weſtern iſles of Scotland, and alſo on the Fern Iſles, on the Northumberland coaſt, which latter is the only place where they are known to breed in England, and may be ſaid to be their utmoſt ſouthern limit in this quarter, although a few ſolitary inſtances of ſingle birds being ſhot further ſouthward along the coaſt have ſometimes hap-

pened. Mr Tunſtal had a ſtuffed ſpecimen in his Muſeum, which was ſhot in January, at Hartlepool, on the Durham coaſt. The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a perfect bird, in full plumage, ſhot in April, near Holy Iſland.

It is not known that any attempts to domeſticate this ſpecies have ſucceeded. Such as were made by the Rev. Dr Thorp, of Ryton, entirely failed of ſucceſs.



MUSK DUCK.

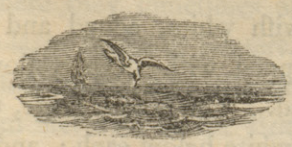
MUSCOVY, CAIRO, GUINEA, OR INDIAN DUCK.

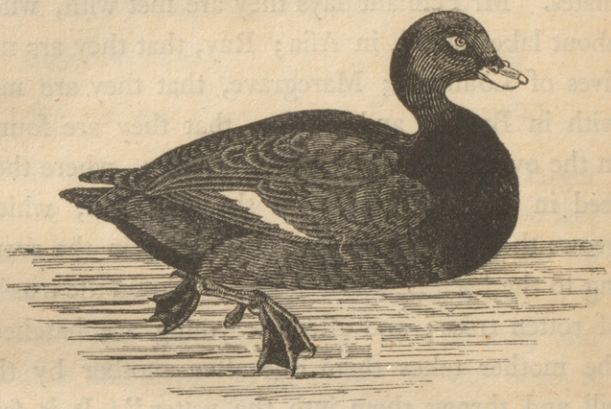
(*Anas moſchatus*, Lin.—*Le Canard Muſque*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies is leſs than the laſt, but much larger than the Common Duck, meaſuring about two feet in length. The bill is two inches long; the tip and noſtrils brown; the other parts of it red, as is alſo the naked warty ſkin which joins its baſe, and ſurrounds the eyes. The crown of the head is rather tufted or creſted, and black: the cheeks, throat, and fore part of the neck, white, irregularly marked with black: the belly, from the breaſt to the thighs, white. The general colour of the reſt of the plumage is deep brown,—darkeſt, and gloſſed with green on the back, rump, quills, and tail: the two outſide feathers of the latter, and the firſt three of the former, are white: the legs and feet are red, ſhort, and thick. This is the general appearance of the Muſk Duck; but as it is domeſticated in almoſt every country, it varies very much, like all other birds in that ſtate. In the female, the bare warty, or carunculated ſkin, which is ſpread from the bill over the eyes, is of a much duller red, and does not cover ſo large a portion of the head as it does in the male: ſhe is alſo of a leſs ſize.

Ornithologiſts are in doubt, as to the country to which theſe birds originally belonged; it is, how-

ever agreed, that they are natives of the warm climates. Mr Pennant ſays they are met with, wild, about lake Baikal, in Aſia; Ray, that they are natives of Louiſiana; Marcgrave, that they are met with in Brazil; and Buffon, that they are found in the overflowed ſavannas of Guiana, where they feed in the day-time upon the wild rice, which grows there in abundance, and return in the evening to the ſea: he adds, "they neſtle on the trunks of rotten trees; and after the young are hatched, the mother takes them one after another by the bill and throws them into the water." It is ſaid that great numbers of the young brood are deſtroyed by the alligators, which are common in thoſe parts. Theſe birds have obtained the name of Muſk Duck, from their muſky ſmell, which ariſes from the liquor ſecreted in the glands on the rump. They are a thriving and prolific ſpecies, and their fleſh, which is high-flavoured, is by many very much eſteemed. They will aſſociate with the Common Ducks; and inſtances are not wanting of their producing a mixed breed.





VELVET DUCK.

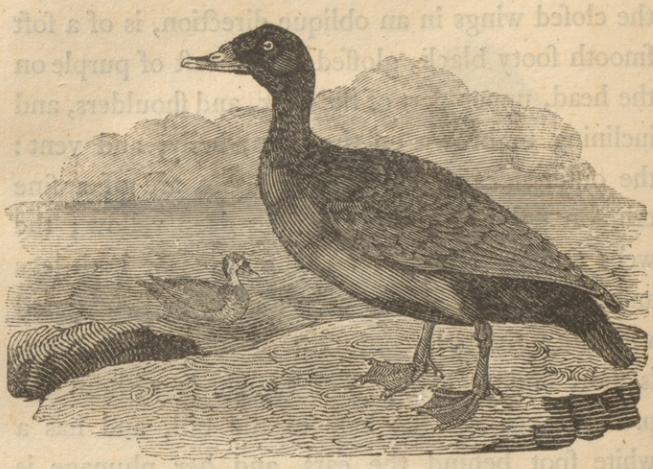
DOUBLE SCOTER, OR GREAT BLACK DUCK.

(*Anas fuſca*, Lin.—*La grande Macreuſe*, Buff.)

THE Velvet Duck is larger than a Mallard, weighing about three pounds two ounces, and meaſuring above twenty inches in length. The upper mandible is broad, and flat, and riſes into a kind of black knob at the baſe: the noſtrils are of the ſame colour, and ſtand out on each ſide; the middle, or ridge, and the nail, are red; the reſt of it is orange yellow, edged with black. The under mandible is pale or yellowiſh white, edged and ſpotted with black, and tipped with deep yellow: both are coarſely ſerrated. The head is large, the eyes ſmall, with a ſpot of white below each; and the irides are nearly of the ſame colour. All the reſt of the plu-

mage, excepting a white ſtroke or band which croſſes the cloſed wings in an oblique direction, is of a ſoft ſmooth ſooty black, gloſſed with a caſt of purple on the head, upper part of the neck, and ſhoulders, and inclining to brown on the ſides, belly, and vent: the outer ſides of the legs and toes are of a fine crimſon colour; the inner ſides deep yellow; the webs and nails black; and the joints of both legs and toes look as if they were ſtained or beſpattered with ink: the tail, conſiſting of fourteen feathers, is ſhort and pointed. The female is without the protuberance on the baſe of the bill, and has a white ſpot behind the ears, and her plumage is more inclined to brown.

Theſe birds are natives of the northern parts of the world, where they rear their young, and continue during the ſummer months, but retire ſouthward in winter, at which ſeaſon they are met with in greater or leſs numbers, and according to the ſeverity of the weather, approach towards the temperate climates of Europe, Aſia, and America. In the latter quarter they are frequently ſeen as far ſouth as New York, and ſpread themſelves in ſmall numbers along the ſhores of weſtern Europe, as far as France, where they ſometimes appear in company with the large flocks of Scoters, and are often caught in the fiſhermen's nets with thoſe birds; but they are ſeldom met with on the Britiſh ſhores.



SCOTER.

BLACK DUCK, OR BLACK DIVER.

(*Anas Nigra*, Lin.—*La Macreuſe*, Buff.)

THE Scoter is leſs than the Velvet Duck, weighing generally about two pounds nine ounces, and meaſuring twenty-two inches in length, and thirty-four in breadth. The baſe of the upper mandible is raiſed up into a kind of large knob, divided downwards in the middle by a narrow bright or deep yellow ſtripe, which is ſpread round the projecting edges of the noſtrils, and extended nearly to the tip: the reſt of the bill is black, grooved along near the edges, where it is broad and flat: the under mandible is alſo black: irides duſky. From the curious conformation and appearance of the bill,

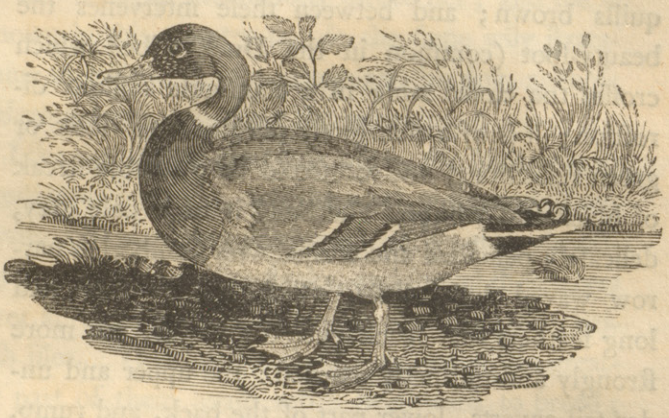
(of which a more accurate figure is ſubjoined) this ſpecies cannot eaſily be miſtaken, although it is ſaid that the knob in ſome ſpecimens is red; in that of the females it is hardly noticeable, and in the younger males it is of a ſmall ſize. The eye-lids are yellow, the irides dark, and the whole of its cloſe ſmooth plumage is black, gloſſed on the head and neck with purple. The tail conſiſts of ſixteen ſharp-pointed feathers, of which the middle are the longeſt: legs brown. In ſome of the young females the plumage is grey.

In ſevere winters the Scoters leave the northern extremities of the world in immenſe flocks, diſperſing themſelves ſouthward along the ſhores of more temperate climates. They are only ſparingly ſcattered on the coaſts of England; but according to Buffon, they appear in great numbers on the northern coaſts of France, to which they are attracted by beds of a certain kind of ſmall bivalve ſhell-fiſh, *(vaimeaux)* which abound in thoſe parts, and of which they are very fond, for they are almoſt inceſſantly diving in queſt of them. Over theſe beds of ſhell-fiſh, the fiſhermen at low water ſpread their long nets, floated or ſupported horizontally two or three feet from the ſand: theſe they leave to be covered by the overflowing tide, which alſo brings the Scoters prowling along with it, within their accuſtomed diſtance from the beach. As ſoon as the firſt of them perceives the ſhells, it inſtantly dives, when

all the reſt follow the example, and numbers are entangled in the floating meſhes of the net. In this way it is ſaid that ſometimes twenty or thirty dozen have been taken in a ſingle tide. Theſe birds are ſold to the Roman catholics, who eat them on faſt days and in lent, when their religious ordinances have forbidden the uſe of all animal food, except fiſh; but theſe birds, and a few others of the ſame fiſhy flavour, have been exempted from the interdict, on the ſuppoſition of their being cold blooded, and partaking of the nature of fiſh.

The Scoters ſeldom quit the ſea, upon which they are very nimble, and are indefatigable expert divers; but they fly heavily, near the ſurface of the water, and to no great diſtance, and are ſaid to walk aukwardly erect on the land.





MALLARD,

OR COMMON WILD DUCK.

(*Anas boſchas*, Lin.—*Le Canard Sauvage*, Buff.)

THE Wild Drake weighs from thirty-ſix to forty ounces, and meaſures twenty-three inches in length, and thirty-five in breadth. The bill is of a yellowiſh green colour, not very flat, about an inch broad, and two and a half long, from the corners of the mouth to the tip of the nail: the head and upper half of the neck, are of a gloſſy deep changeable green, terminated in the middle of the neck by a white collar, with which it is nearly encircled: the lower part of the neck, breaſt, and ſhoulders, are of a deep vinous cheſnut: the covering ſcapular feathers are of a kind of ſilvery white; thoſe underneath rufous; and both are prettily croſſed with

ſmall waved threads of brown: wing coverts aſh: quills brown; and between theſe intervenes the beauty-ſpot (common in the Duck tribe) which croſſes the cloſed wing in a tranſverſe oblique direction; it is of a rich gloſſy purple, with violet or green reflections, and bordered by a double ſtreak of black and white. The belly is of a pale grey, delicately pencilled and croſſed with numberleſs narrow waved duſky lines, which, on the ſides and long feathers that reach over the thighs, are more ſtrongly and diſtinctly marked: the upper and under tail-coverts, lower part of the back, and rump, are black; the latter gloſſed with green: the four middle tail-feathers are alſo black, with purple reflections, and, like thoſe of the domeſtic Drake, are ſtiffly curled upwards; the reſt are ſharp-pointed, and fade off to the exterior ſides, from a brown to a dull white: legs, toes, and webs red.

The plumage of the female is very different from that of the male, and partakes of none of his beauties except the ſpot on the wings. All the other parts are plain brown, marked with black.—She makes her neſt, lays from ten to ſixteen greeniſh white eggs, and rears her young, generally in the moſt ſequeſtered moſſes or bogs, far from the haunts of man, and hidden from his ſight among reeds and ruſhes. To her young helpleſs unfledged family, (and they are nearly three months before they can fly) ſhe is a fond, attentive, and watchful parent,

carrying or leading them from one pool to another as her fears or inclinations direct her; and she is known in this country to use the same wily stratagems to mislead the sportsman and his dog, as those before noticed respecting the partridge. *

Like the rest of the Duck tribes, the Mallards, in prodigious numbers, quit the north at the end of autumn, and migrating southward, arrive at the beginning of winter in large flocks, and spread themselves over all the loughs and marshy wastes in the British isles. They pair in the spring, when the greater part of them again retire northward to breed; but many straggling pairs stay with us: they, as well as preceding colonists of their tribes, remain to rear their young, who become natives, and continue with us throughout the year.

Many and various are the contrivances which have been used, in both ancient and modern times, to catch these wild, shy, and wary birds, and from the avidity with which the sport is still followed, it is hardly necessary to observe how highly they are esteemed, and what place they hold as a delicacy on the table. To describe these various contrivances would swell out this part of their history beyond its proper limits,—and Willoughby, Buffon, Pennant, Latham, and others, have left little new to add on this head. It will not be proper,

* Vol. I. page 307.

however, to omit noticing the decoy, which from its ſuperiority over every other method, promiſes to continue long in uſe; for in that mode the Mallard and other Ducks are taken by thouſands at a time; whereas all the other ſchemes of lying in ambuſh, ſhooting, baited hooks, wading in the water with the head covered in a perforated wooden veſſel, or in a calabaſh, &c. * are attended with much watching, toil, and fatigue, and are alſo comparatively trifling in point of ſucceſs.

The decoys now in uſe are formed by cutting pipes or tapering ditches, widened and deepened as they approach the water, in various ſemicircular directions, through the ſwampy ground, into particular large pools, which are ſheltered by ſurrounding trees or buſhes, and ſituated commonly in the midſt of the ſolitary marſh. At the narrow points of theſe ditches, fartheſt from the pool, by which they are filled with water, the fowlers place their *funnel* nets: from theſe the ditch is covered

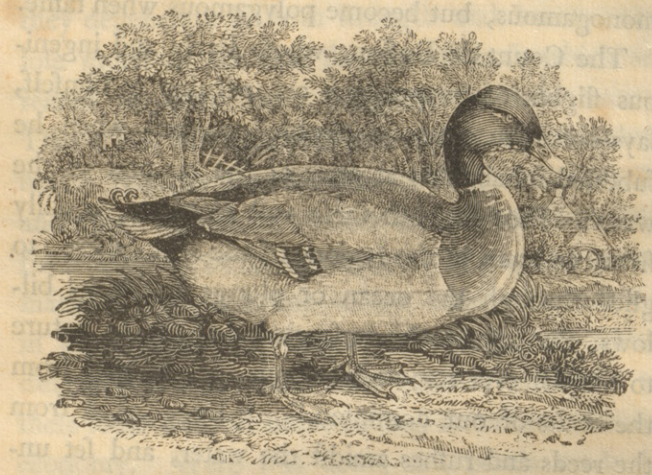
* This method of taking Wild Geeſe or Ducks is repreſented, as well as thoſe anciently in uſe, of taking almoſt every kind of wild animals, in an old folio book, conſiſting of 105 engravings, by Collaert and others, from the paintings of Johannes Stradanus. The wooden veſſel which conceals the head of the fowler, is there repreſented, as it were floating about among the unſuſpecting flocks, while with his hand the dextrous ſportſman is pulling all thoſe within his reach, one after another, by the legs under water. This method is ſtill practiſed in China.

by a continued arch of netting, ſupported by hoops, to the deſired diſtance; and all along both ſides, ſkreens formed of reeds are ſet up ſo as to prevent the poſſibility of the birds ſeeing the decoy-man; and as theſe birds feed during the night, all is ready prepared for this ſport in the evening. The fowler, then, placed on the leeward ſide, ſometimes with the help of his well-trained dog, but always by that of his better trained tame Decoy-Ducks, begins the buſineſs of deſtruction. The latter, directed by his well-known whiſtle, or excited forward by the floating hempſeed, which he ſtrews occaſionally upon the water, entice all the Wild Ducks after them under the netting; and as ſoon as this is obſerved, the man or his dog, as the fitneſs of opportunity may direct, is from the rear expoſed to the view of the birds, by which they are ſo alarmed that they dare not offer to return, and are prevented by the nets from eſcaping upwards: they therefore preſs forward in the utmoſt confuſion to the end of the pipe, into the *purſe* nets there prepared to receive them, while their treacherous guides remain behind in conſcious ſecurity. The ſeaſon allowed by act of parliament for catching theſe birds in this way, continues only from the latter end of October till February.

Particular ſpots or decoys, in the fen countries, are let to the fowlers at a rent of from five to thirty pounds per annum; and Pennant inſtances

a ſeaſon in which thirty-one thouſand two hundred Ducks, including Teals and Wigeons, were ſold in London only, from ten of theſe decoys near Wainfleet, in Lincolnſhire. Formerly, according to Willoughby, the Ducks, while in moult and unable to fly, were driven by men in boats, furniſhed with long poles, with which they ſplaſhed the water between long nets, ſtretched vertically acroſs the pools, in the ſhape of two ſides of a triangle, into leſſer nets placed at the point, and in this way, he ſays, four thouſand were taken at one driving in Deeping-Fen; and Latham has quoted an inſtance of two thouſand ſix hundred and forty-ſix being taken in two days, near Spalding in Lincolnſhire; but this manner of catching them while in moult is now prohibited.





TAME DUCK.

(*Anas domeſtica*, Lin.—*Le Canard domeſtique*, Buff.)

THIS valuable domeſtic owes its origin to the Mallard, the laſt deſcribed ſpecies, but has long been reclaimed from a ſtate of nature. Many of them appear in nearly the ſame plumage as the wild ones; others vary greatly from them, as well as from each other, and may be ſaid to be marked with almoſt all colours; but all the males (Drakes) ſtill retain the unvarying mark of their wild original in the curled feathers of the tail. Long domeſtication has, however, deprived the Tame Duck of that keen, quick, and ſprightly look and ſhape which diſtinguiſh the Mallard, and ſubſtituted a more dull and leſs elegant form and appearance in

their ſtead. In the wild ſtate they pair, and are monogamous, but become polygamous when tame.

The Count de Buffon, whoſe lively and ingenious flights of imagination are peculiar to himſelf, ſays—"Man made a double conqueſt when he ſubdued inhabitants at once of the air and of the water. Free in both theſe vaſt elements, equally fitted to roam in the regions of the atmoſphere, to glide through the ocean or plunge under its billows, the aquatic birds ſeemed deſtined by nature to live for ever remote from our ſociety, and from the limits of our dominion." "Eggs taken from the reeds and ruſhes amidſt the water, and ſet under an adopted mother, firſt produced, in our farm-yards, wild, ſhy, fugitive birds, perpetually roving and unſettled, and impatient to regain the abodes of liberty." Theſe, however, after they had bred and reared their own young in the domeſtic aſylum, became attached to the ſpot; and their deſcendants, in proceſs of time, grew more and more gentle and tractable, till at laſt they appear to have nearly relinquiſhed and forgotten the prerogatives of the ſavage ſtate, although they ſtill retain a ſtrong propenſity to roam abroad, in ſearch, no doubt, of the larger pools, marſhy places, and bogs, which it is natural to ſuppoſe they muſt prefer to the beaten, hard, pebbly-covered ſurface ſurrounding the ſcantily watered hamlet: and indeed it is well known to every obſerving good houſewife, that

where they are long confined to ſuch dry places, they degenerate in both ſtrength and beauty, and loſe much of the fine flavour of thoſe which are reared in ſpots more congenial to their nature. That theſe, and ſuch like watery places, which their health requires for them to waſh, dive, feed, reſt, and ſport in, are not better tenanted by theſe uſeful and pretty birds, is much to be regretted, and marks ſtrongly a falling off—a want of induſtry * in thoſe females to whoſe lot it falls, and whoſe duty it is to contribute their quota of attention to theſe leſſer but not unintereſting branches of rural economy. Were this done, and ponds made in aid of the purpoſe in every ſuitable contiguous ſituation, there can be no doubt but that a multiplied ſtock of Ducklings, to an inconceivable amount, might be annually reared with a comparatively trifling additional expence; for the various undiſtinguiſhable animal and vegetable ſubſtances upon which they chiefly live, and for which they unceaſingly ſearch with their curiouſly conſtructed bills, ſifting and ſeparating every alimentary particle from the mud, unleſs fed upon by them, are totally loſt. When older, they alſo devour worms, ſpawn, water inſects, and ſometimes frogs and ſmall fiſhes,—together with the various ſeeds of bog and water

* "The thrifty huſwife is aye weel kend by her ſonſy ſwarms o' bonny chucky burdies." SCOTCH PROVERB.

plants, of which they find an abundant ſupply when left to provide for themſelves in thoſe wet places.

When they, with other kinds of fowl, are buſily employed in picking up the waſte about the barn door, they greatly enliven and beautify the rural ſcene.

> " A ſnug thack houſe, before the door a green:
> " Hens on the midding, Ducks in dubs are ſeen.
> " On this ſide ſtands a barn, on that a byre;
> " A peat-ſtack joins, and forms a rural ſquare." *

To this may be added, the no leſs pleaſing peep at the mill and mill-dam, when well furniſhed with theſe their feathered inhabitants. The village ſchool-boy witneſſes with delight the antic movements of the buſy ſhapeleſs little brood, ſometimes under the charge of a foſter mother, who with anxious fears paddles by the brink, and utters her unavailing cries, while the Ducklings, regardleſs of her warnings, and rejoicing in the element ſo well adapted to their nature, are ſplaſhing over each other beneath the pendent foliage; or, in eager purſuit, ſnap at their inſect prey on the ſurface, or plunge after them to the bottom: ſome meanwhile are ſeen perpendicularly ſuſpended, with the tail only above water, engaged in the general ſearch after food.

* Allan Ramſay.

Scenes like theſe, harmonized by the clack of the mill and its murmuring water-fall, afford pleaſures little known to thoſe who have always been engaged in mere worldly purſuits: but ſuch pictureſque beauties paſs not unnoticed by the young naturaliſt; their charms invite his firſt attentions, and probably bias his inclinations to purſue ſtudies which enlarge and exalt his mind, and can only end with his life.

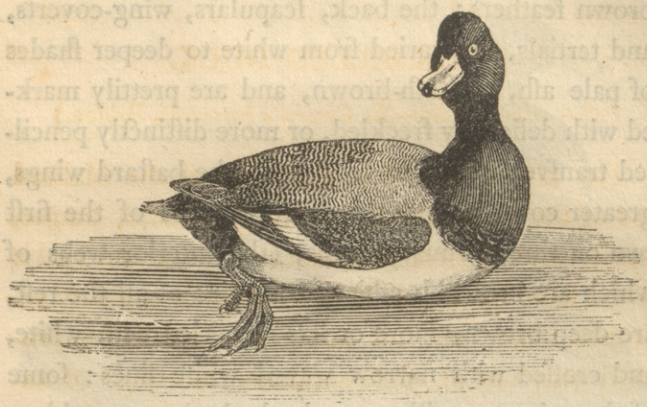


HOOK-BILLED DUCK.

(*Anas adunca*, Lin.—*Le Canard à bec courbé*, Briſſon.)

The bill of this differs from that of the Mallard and of the Tame Duck, in being broader, longer, and in bending more downwards; but as this bird is of the ſame ſpecies, ſo in other reſpects it nearly reſembles them, and this variation of the bill is probably only one of thoſe accidental ſportings of nature, not very uncommon in all domeſtic animals; every variety of which, each with its original peculiarities, (for like begets like) may eaſily be kept up as long as caprice ſhall feel gratified by continuing them. Latham ſays theſe birds ſeem only to be kept in England out of curioſity, but that according to the information he received, they are full as common in Germany as the other ſort of Tame Ducks. He alſo mentions other varieties of the Mallard. Thoſe with copped heads, others wanting the webs of their feet, &c. if added to the liſt, would only ſerve to miſlead the young enquirer; and to the experienced ornithologiſt ſuch details are unneceſſary.





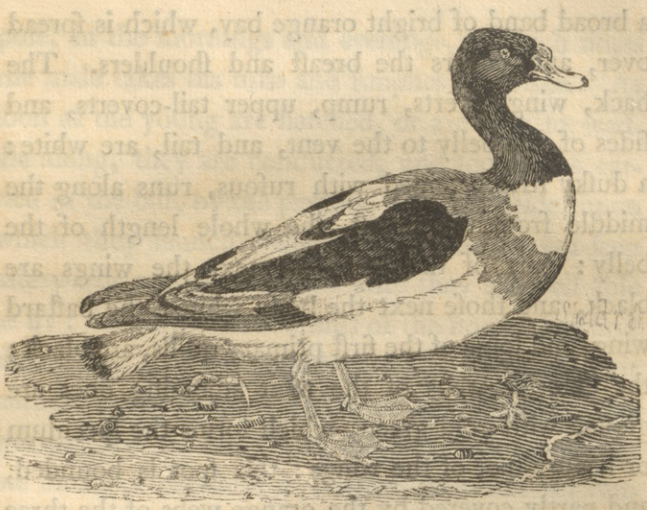
SCAUP DUCK.

(*Anas Marila*, Lin.)

THIS ſpecies is leſs than the Mallard; ſome of them, it is ſaid, weighing only a pound and a half, while others exceed that weight by eight or nine ounces, and meaſure, when ſtretched out, nearly twenty inches in length, and thirty-two in breadth. The bill is broad and flat, more than two inches long, from the corners of the mouth to the tip, and of a fine pale blue or lead colour, with the nail black: irides bright deep yellow: the head and upper half of the neck are black, gloſſed with green: the lower part of the latter, and the breaſt, are of a ſleek plain black: the throat, rump, upper and under coverts of the tail, and part of the thighs, are of the ſame colour, but dull, and more inclining to brown. The tail, when ſpread out, is fan-ſhaped, and conſiſts of fourteen ſhort

brown feathers: the back, ſcapulars, wing-coverts, and tertials, are varied from white to deeper ſhades of pale aſh, and aſh-brown, and are prettily marked with delicately freckled, or more diſtinctly pencilled tranſverſe dark waved lines: the baſtard wings, greater coverts, and the exterior webs of the firſt two or three primary quills, (the interior webs of which are browniſh aſh) and the tips of all the reſt, are deep brown, more or leſs ſprinkled with white, and croſſed with narrow waved white lines: ſome of the primary quills towards the body, are white; the baſes of the ſecondaries, of the ſame colour, form an oblique bar acroſs the wings, which is ſtopped by a ſingle under tertial feather, of plain brown, with green reflections: the belly is white, and ſhaded off towards the vent with the ſame kind of ſprinkled and waved lines as thoſe ſo predominant on a large portion of the plumage. The legs are ſhort; toes long, and, as well as the outer or lateral webs of the inner toes, are of a dirty pale blue colour; all the joints and the reſt of the webs are duſky. Theſe birds are ſaid to vary greatly in their plumage, as well as ſize, but thoſe which have come under the author's obſervation were all nearly alike.

The Scaup Duck, like others of the ſame genus, quits the rigours of the dreary north in the winter months, and in that ſeaſon only is met with, in ſmall numbers, on various parts of the Britiſh ſhores,



SHIELDRAKE.

SHELDRAKE, SKELDRAKE, OR BURROUGH DUCK.

(*Anas tadorna*, Lin.—*La Tadorne.*)

THE male of this prettily marked ſpecies is ſomewhat larger than the Mallard, meaſuring about two feet in length, three and a half in breadth, and weighing commonly two pounds ten ounces. The bill is red, with the nail and noſtrils black: the upper mandible is broad, flat, and grooved on the edges towards the point, where it has rather a caſt upwards; it is alſo depreſſed in the middle, and raiſed into a knob or tubercle at the baſe. The head, and upper part of the neck, are of a gloſſy dark or bottle green: the lower part of the neck, to the breaſt, is encircled with white, and joined by

a broad band of bright orange bay, which is ſpread over, and covers the breaſt and ſhoulders. The back, wing-coverts, rump, upper tail-coverts, and ſides of the belly to the vent, and tail, are white: a duſky ſtripe, tinged with rufous, runs along the middle from the breaſt, the whole length of the belly: part of the ſcapulars next the wings are black, and thoſe next the body white: the baſtard wing, and ſome of the firſt primary quills, are black; the exterior webs of the next adjoining ones are gloſſed with gold green, which forms the ſpeculum or beauty-ſpot of the wings: this ſpot is bounded, and partly covered by the orange webs of the three ſucceeding quill-feathers, which ſeparate it from the ſcapulars. The tail is white, but ſome of its feathers are tipped with black: the legs pale red. The female is leſs than the male, and her plumage is not ſo vivid and beautiful. She makes her neſt, and rears her young, under ground, in the rabbit-holes which are made in the ſand-hills near the ſea-ſhore: it is chiefly formed of the fine down plucked from her own breaſt: ſhe lays from twelve to ſixteen roundiſh white eggs, and the incubation laſts about thirty days. During this time the male, who is very attentive to his charge, keeps watch in the day-time on ſome adjoining hillock, where he can ſee all around him, and which he quits only when impelled by hunger, to procure ſubſiſtence. The female alſo leaves the neſt, for the ſame pur-

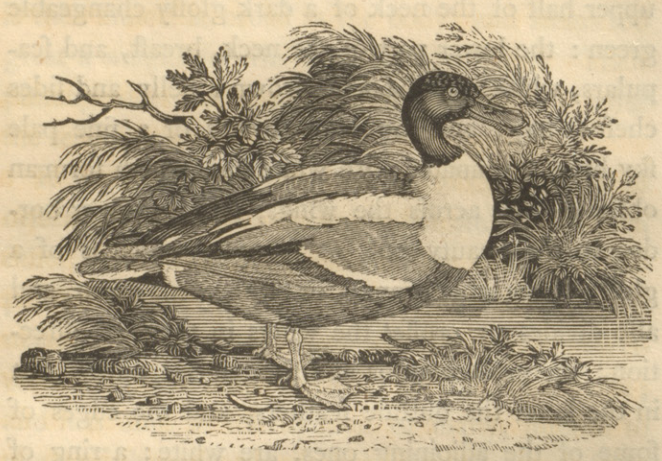
poſe, in the mornings and evenings, at which times the male takes his turn and ſupplies her place. As ſoon as the young are hatched, or are able to waddle along, they are conducted, and ſometimes carried in the bill, by the parents, to the full tide, upon which they launch without fear, and are not ſeen afterwards out of tide-mark until they are well able to fly: lulled by the roarings of the flood, they find themſelves at home amidſt an ample ſtore of their natural food, which conſiſts of ſand-hoppers, ſea-worms, &c. or ſmall ſhell-fiſh, and the innumerable ſhoals of the little fry, which have not yet ventured out into the great deep, but are left on the beach, or toſſed to the ſurface of the water by the reſtleſs ſurge.

If this family, in their progreſs from the neſt to the ſea, happen to be interrupted by any perſon, the young ones, it is ſaid, ſeek the firſt ſhelter, and ſquat cloſe down, and the parent birds fly off: then commences that truly curious ſcene, dictated by an inſtinct analogous to reaſon, the ſame as has been already noticed in the Mallard and the Partridge: the tender mother drops, at no great diſtance from her helpleſs brood, trails herſelf along the ground, flaps it with her wings, and appears to ſtruggle as if ſhe were wounded, in order to attract attention, and tempt a purſuit after her. Should theſe wily ſchemes, in which ſhe is alſo aided by her mate, ſucceed, they both return when the danger

is over, to their terrified motionleſs little offspring, to renew the tender offices of cheriſhing and protecting them.

Theſe birds are ſometimes watched to their holes, which are dug up to the neſt, whence the eggs are taken, and hatched, and the young reared by a Tame Duck. In this way many gentlemen, tempted by the richneſs of their garb, have their ponds ſtocked with theſe beautiful birds; but as they are of a roving diſpoſition, and are apt to ſtray, or to quit altogether ſuch limited ſpots, it is generally found neceſſary to pinion or diſable a wing to ſecure them. The Shieldrake has been known to breed with the Common Duck; but it is not well aſcertained whether the hybrids thus produced will breed again or not.

This ſpecies is diſperſed, in greater or leſs numbers, over the warm, as well as the cold climates, in various parts of the world: they are met with as far north as Iceland in the ſpring, and in Sweden and the Orkney Iſlands in the winter. Captain Cook notices them, among other ſea-fowl, on the coaſt of Van Deimen's land, and they have been ſeen, in great numbers, at the Falkland Iſlands. Although they are not numerous on the Britiſh and the oppoſite ſhores, yet they are common enough in the Britiſh iſles, where they remain throughout the year, always in pairs, and occaſionally ſtraggle away from the ſea-coaſts to the lakes inland.



SHOVELER.

BLUE-WING SHOVELER, KERTLUTOCK, OR BROAD-BILL.

(*Anas clypeata*, Lin.—*Le Souchet*, Buff.)

THE Shoveler is leſs than the Wild Duck, commonly weighing about twenty-two ounces, and meaſuring twenty-one inches in length. The bill is black, three inches long, very broad or ſpread out, and rounded like a ſpoon at the end, with the nail hooked inward and ſmall: the inſides of the mandibles are remarkably well furniſhed with thin pectinated rows, which fit into each other like a weaver's brake, and through which no dirt can paſs, while the bird is ſeparating or ſifting the ſmall worms and inſects from amongſt the mud, by the edges of the water, where it is continually ſearching for them:

the irides are of a fine pure yellow; the head and upper half of the neck of a dark gloſſy changeable green: the lower part of the neck, breaſt, and ſcapulars, white: the back is brown: belly and ſides cheſnut bay; and the wing coverts of a fine pale ſky blue, terminated with white tips, which form an oblique ſtripe acroſs the wings, and an upper border to the beauty-ſpot, or ſpangle, which is of a gloſſy changeable bronze, or reſplendent green, and alſo divides or croſſes the wings in the ſame direction: the greater quills and the tail are duſky, but in the latter the outſide feathers, and the edges of ſome of the adjoining ones, are white: a ring of white alſo encircles the rump and the vent, behind which the feathers under the tail are black: legs and feet red. The female is ſmaller than the male, from which ſhe alſo differs greatly in the colours of her plumage,—the coverts and ſpangle-ſpot on her wings being leſs brilliant, and the other parts, compoſed of white, grey, and ruſty, croſſed with curved duſky lines, giving her much the appearance of the Common Wild Duck. She makes her neſt, lined with withered graſſes, on the ground, in the midſt of the largeſt tufts of ruſhes or coarſe herbage, in the moſt inacceſſible part of the ſlaky marſh: ſhe lays ten or twelve pale ruſty-coloured eggs; and as ſoon as the young are hatched, they are conducted to the water by the parent birds, who watch and guard them with the greateſt care.

They are at firſt very ſhapeleſs and ugly, for the bill is then almoſt as broad as the body, and ſeems too great a weight for the little bird to carry. Their plumage does not acquire its full colours until after the ſecond moult.

It would appear, from the varied deſcriptions of ornithologiſts, that theſe birds differ much from each other, both in the colour of the bill, and in the diſpoſition of the markings of their rich-coloured plumage. All, however, agree in ranking the Shoveler among the moſt beautiful of the Duck tribe; and it is alſo, in the opinion of many, inferior to none of them in the delicate flavour of its fleſh, which is red, juicy, and tender.

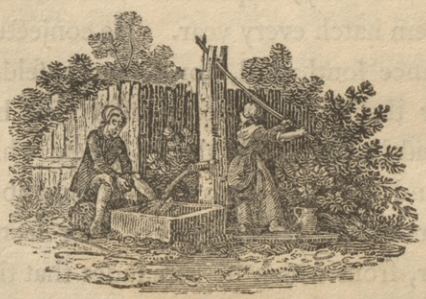
It has not yet been aſcertained whether the Shoveler breeds in England, where indeed it is a ſcarce bird; but according to M. Baillon, * they are not uncommon in France, where they arrive about the month of February, diſperſe in the marſhes, and a part of them hatch every year. He conjectures that they advance ſouthward, for they are ſeldom met with after the firſt northerly wind that blows in March, and he adds, that thoſe of them which then ſtay behind do not depart till September. He alſo remarks that hardly any are ever ſeen during the winter, from which he concludes that they ſhun the approach of cold. They are ſaid to be met

* The friend and correſpondent of the Count de Buffon.

with in Scania and Gothland, and in moſt parts of Germany, Ruſſia, and Kamtſchatka,—and alſo, in the winter months, in New York and Carolina, in America.

This ſpecies is of ſo wild, ſhy, and ſolitary a diſpoſition, that all attempts hitherto made to domeſticate them have failed. This work was favoured with the bird from which the foregoing figure and deſcription were taken, by the author's friends at Cambridge.

The *Anas muſcaria* of Linnæus (*Le Souchet à ventre blanc* of Briſſon) differs only from this in having the belly white, and is conſidered merely as a variety of the ſame ſpecies.



RED-BREASTED SHOVELER.

"SIZE of a Common Duck. Bill large, ſerrated on the ſides, and entirely of a browniſh yellow colour: head large: eyes ſmall: irides yellow: breaſt and throat of a reddiſh brown: back brown, growing paler towards the ſides: the tips and pinions of the wings grey: quills brown; the reſt of a greyiſh brown: the ſpeculum, or wing-ſpot, purple, edged with white: tail ſhort, and white: vent of a bright brown, ſpotted with darker: legs ſhort and ſlender: feet ſmall, and of a reddiſh brown colour."

"In the female all the colours are fainter, and the ſpeculum of the wings blue."

"This ſpecies is ſometimes taken in the decoys of Lincolnſhire."



GADWALL,

OR GRAY.

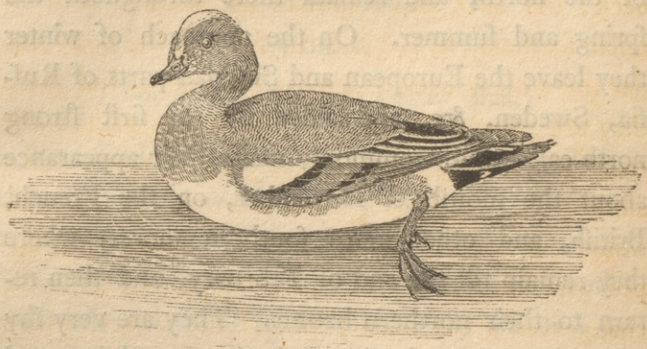
(*Anas ſtrepera*, Lin.—*Le Chipeau*, Buff.)

THE Gadwall is leſs than the Mallard, meaſuring about nineteen inches in length, and twenty-three in breadth. The bill is flat, black, and two inches long, from the tip to the corners of the mouth: the head, and upper part of the neck, are of a rufous brown colour, lighteſt on the throat and cheeks, and finely ſpeckled and dotted all over with black and brown: the feathers on the lower part of the neck, breaſt, and ſhoulders, look like ſcales, beautifully margined and croſſed with curved black and white lines: thoſe of the back, ſcapulars, and ſides, are brown, marked tranſverſely with narrower waved ſtreaks of a duſky colour: the belly and thighs are dingy white, more or leſs ſprinkled with grey: the lower part of the back dark brown: rump and vent black; and the tail aſh, edged with white. The ridge and leſſer coverts of the wing are of a pale rufous brown, croſſed obliquely by the beauty-ſpot, which is a tri-coloured bar of purpliſh red, white, and black: the greater quills are duſky: legs orange red. The wings of the female are barred like thoſe of the male, but the colours are of a much duller caſt, and her breaſt, inſtead of his beautiful markings, is only plain brown, ſpotted with black.

Birds of this ſpecies breed in the deſert marſhes of the north, and remain there throughout the ſpring and ſummer. On the approach of winter they leave the European and Siberian parts of Ruſſia, Sweden, &c. and aided by the firſt ſtrong north-eaſt wind, commonly make their appearance about the month of November, on the French, Britiſh, and other more ſouthern ſhores, where they remain till the end of February, and then return to their northern haunts. They are very ſhy and wary birds, feeding only in the night, and lurking concealed among the ruſhes in the watery waſte during the day, in which they are ſeldom ſeen on the wing.

Theſe birds ſhew themſelves expert in diving as well as in ſwimming, and often diſappoint the ſportſman in his aim; for the inſtant they ſee the flaſh of the pan, they diſappear, and dive to a diſtant ſecure retreat.





WIGEON.

WHEWER, WHIM, OR PANDLED WHEW.

(*Anas Penelope*, Lin.—*Le Canard ſiffleur*, Buff.)

THIS is nearly of the ſame ſize as the Gadwall, weighing generally about twenty-three ounces, and meaſuring nearly twenty inches in length, and two feet three in breadth. The bill is an inch and a half long, narrow, and ſerrated on the inner edges: the upper mandible is of a dark lead colour, tipped with black. The crown of the head, which is very high and narrow, is of a cream colour, with a ſmall ſpot of the ſame under each eye: the reſt of the head, the neck, and the breaſt, are bright rufous cheſnut, obſcurely freckled on the head with black ſpots, and darkeſt on the chin and throat, which are tinged with a vinous colour: a band, compoſed of beautifully waved, or indented narrow

aſh-brown and white lines, ſeparates the breaſt and neck: the back and ſcapulars are marked with ſimilar feathers, as are alſo the ſides of the body under the wings, even as low as the thighs, but there they are paler: the belly to the vent is white: the ridge of the wing, and adjoining coverts, are duſky aſh-brown: the greater coverts brown, edged with white, (in ſome ſpecimens wholly white) and tipped with black, which forms an upper border to the changeable green beauty-ſpot of the wings, which is alſo bordered on the under ſide by another ſtripe formed by the deep velvet black tips of the ſecondary quills: the exterior webs of the adjoining quills are white, and thoſe next the back, which are very long, are of a deep brown, (in ſome ſpecimens deep black) edged with yellowiſh white: the greater quills are brown: the vent and upper tail coverts, black. The tail, which conſiſts of fourteen feathers, is of a hoary browniſh aſh, edged with yellowiſh white; the two middle ones are ſharp-pointed, darker and longer than the reſt. The legs and toes are of a dirty lead colour, faintly tinged with green; the middle of the webs and nails black. "The female is brown, the middle of the feathers deepeſt: the fore part of the neck and breaſt paler: ſcapulars dark brown, with paler edges: wings and belly as in the male." The young of both ſexes are grey, and continue in that plain garb till the month of February, after which a change takes

place, and the plumage of the male begins to aſſume its rich colourings, in which, it is ſaid, he continues till the end of July, and then again the feathers become dark and grey, ſo that he is hardly to be diſtinguiſhed from the female. *

Theſe birds quit the deſart moraſſes of the north on the approach of winter, and as they advance towards the end of their deſtined ſouthern journey, they ſpread themſelves along the ſhores, and over the marſhes and lakes in various parts of the continent, as well as thoſe of the Britiſh Iſles; and it is ſaid that ſome of the flocks advance as far ſouth as Egypt. They remain in theſe parts during the winter, at the end of which the old birds pair, and the whole tribe, in full plumage, take their departure northward about the end of March. While they remain with us, they frequent the ſame places, and feed in the ſame mode as the Mallard, and are often taken in the decoys along with them and other kinds of Ducks.

The Wigeons commonly fly, in ſmall flocks, during the night, and may be known from others by their whiſtling note while they are on the wing. They are eaſily domeſticated in places where there is plenty of water, and are much admired for their beauty, ſprightly look, and buſy frolicſome manners.

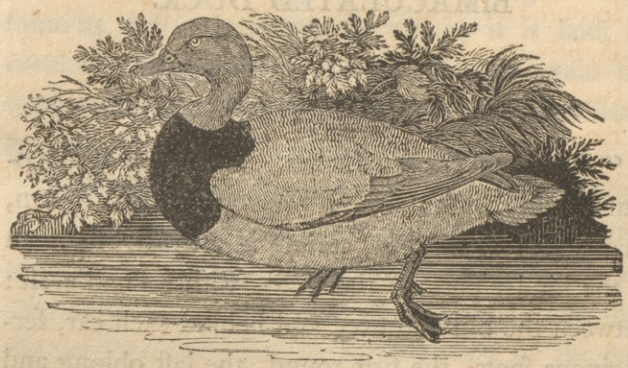
* Mr Baillon, from whom theſe remarks are taken, adds, that the ſame changes happen to the Pintail, the Gadwall, and the Shoveler, and that they are alſo all grey when young.

BIMACULATED DUCK.

CLUCKING DUCK.

(Anas Glocitans.)

"LENGTH twenty inches. Bill deep lead colour; nail black: irides brown: crown brown, changeable with green, ending in a ſtreak of brown at the hinder part of the head, with a ſmall creſt: between the bill and eye, and behind each ear, ferruginous ſpots, the firſt round, the laſt oblong and large: throat of a fine deep purple: the reſt of the head bright green, continued in ſtreaks down the neck: breaſt a light ferruginous brown, ſpotted with black: hind part of the neck and back dark brown, waved with black: wing-coverts aſh-coloured; lower coverts ſtreaked with ruſt-colour: ſcapulars cinereous: quills the ſame, inclined to brown: ſecondaries fine green, ending in a ſhade of black, edged with white: tail-coverts deep changeable green: twelve feathers in the tail; the two middlemoſt black, the others brown, edged with white: belly duſky, finely granulated: legs ſmall, yellow: webs duſky." "Taken in a decoy in England. Has been met with along the Lena, and about the lake Baikal. Has a ſingular note, ſomewhat like clucking." *Latham.*



POCHARD.

POKER, DUNBIRD, OR GREAT-HEADED WIGEON.

(*Anas ferina*, Lin.—*Penelope, le Millouin*, Buff.)

THE Pochard is nineteen inches in length, and two feet and a half in breadth, and weighs about one pound thirteen ounces. The bill is of a dark lead colour, with the tip and ſides near the noſtrils, black: irides fine deep yellow. The head and neck are of a gloſſy cheſnut, joined to a large ſpace of ſooty black which covers the breaſt, and is ſpread over the ſhoulders: the lower part of the back, rump, tail-coverts, and vent, are alſo black: the reſt of the plumage, both above and below, is wholly covered with prettily freckled ſlender duſky threads, diſpoſed tranſverſely in cloſe-ſet zigzag lines on a pale ground, more or leſs ſhaded off with aſh and brown, and deepeſt on the wing-coverts.

The primary quills are brown, with duſky tips; the ſecondaries lead colour, tinged with brown, and ſlightly tipped with dull white. The tail conſiſts of twelve ſhort feathers, of a dark browniſh aſh, which have alſo a hoary grey appearance: the legs and toes are lead colour, ſhaded and daſhed with black.

This ſpecies is without the beauty-ſpot on the wings, and has altogether a more plain and half-mourning kind of look than others of this tribe. The ſpecimen from which the above figure was drawn was ſhot at Axwell-Park, in the county of Durham: the deſcription was taken from one ſhot in January near Holy Iſland. The former differed from the latter in wanting the black on the rump and vent, and in ſome other ſlight variations in the ſhadings of its colours.

"The head of the female is of a pale reddiſh brown: the breaſt is of rather a deeper colour: the coverts of the wings plain aſh-colour: the back marked like that of the male: the belly aſh-coloured." *

Theſe birds leave the north on the approach of winter, and migrate ſouthward as far, it is ſaid, as Egypt in Africa, and Carolina and Louiſiana, in America. They arrive in the marſhes of France about the end of October, in tolerably numerous flocks; and conſiderable numbers of them are

* Pennant.

caught in the fens of Lincolnſhire during the winter ſeaſon, and ſold in the London markets, where they and the female Wigeons are indiſcriminately called Dunbirds, and are eſteemed excellent eating. It has not yet been diſcovered whether any of them remain to breed in England.

The Pochard is of a plump round ſhape, and its walk is heavy, ungraceful, and waddling; but when on the wing, they fly with greater rapidity than the Mallard, and in flocks of from twenty to forty, commonly in a cloſe compact body, whereby they may be eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the triangular ſhaped flocks of the Wild Duck, as well as by the difference of the noiſe of their wings.

The few attempts which have been hitherto made to domeſticate this ſpecies have failed of ſucceſs. They do pretty well where they have plenty of water, but it is ſaid that they cannot bear walking about on hard pebbly grounds.

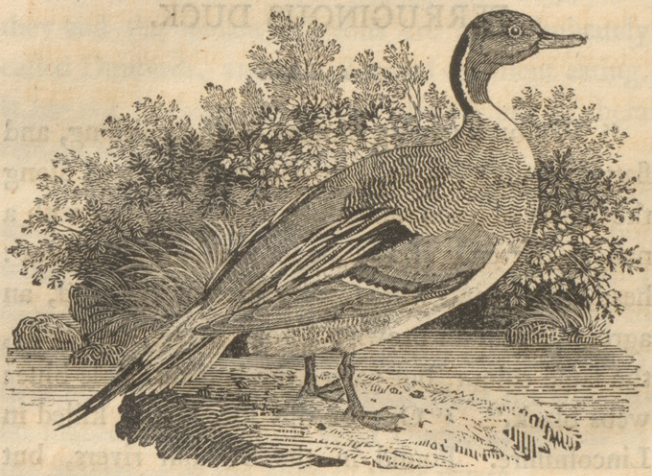


FERRUGINOUS DUCK.

Anas Rutila.

" WEIGHT twenty ounces. The bill long, and flatted, rounded a little at the baſe, ſerrated along the edges of each mandible, and furniſhed with a nail at the end of the upper; colour pale blue: head, neck, and whole upper part of the bird, an agreeable reddiſh brown: throat, breaſt, and belly, the ſame colour, but paler: the legs of a pale blue: webs black." " One of this ſpecies was killed in Lincolnſhire. Found in the Swediſh rivers, but rarely. Mr Pennant has alſo received it from Denmark." *Latham.*





PINTAIL DUCK.

SEA PHEASANT, CRACKER, OR WINTER DUCK.

(*Anas acuta*, Lin.—*Le Canard à longue queue*, Buff.)

THIS handſome looking bird is twenty-eight inches in length, and thirty-eight in breadth, and weighs about twenty-four ounces. The bill is rather long, black in the middle, and blue on the edges: the irides reddiſh: the head and throat are of a ruſty brown, mottled with ſmall dark ſpots, and tinged behind the ears with purple: the nape and upper part of the neck are duſky, margined by a narrow white line, which runs down on each ſide, and falling into a broader ſtripe of the ſame colour, extends itſelf on the fore part as far as the breaſt;

the reſt of the neck, the breaſt, and the upper part of the back, are elegantly pencilled with black and white waved lines: the lower back and ſides of the body are undulated in the ſame manner, but with lines more freckled, leſs diſtinct, and paler: the ſcapulars are long and pointed, each feather black down the middle, with white edges: the coverts of the wings are aſh-brown, tipped with dull orange: below theſe the wing is obliquely croſſed by the beauty-ſpot of gloſſy bronze purple green, with a lower border of black and white: this ſpangle is formed by the outer webs and tips of the middle quills: the reſt of the quills are duſky. All the tail-feathers are of a brown aſh-colour, with pale edges, except the two middle ones, which are black, ſlightly gloſſed with green, conſiderably longer than the others, and end in a point: the belly and ſides of the vent are white:* under tail-coverts black: legs and feet ſmall, and of a lead colour. The female is leſs than the male, and her plumage is of a much plainer caſt, all the upper parts being brown, with each feather margined more or leſs with white, inclining to red or yellow: the greater coverts and ſecondary quills are tipped with cream colour and white, which form a bar acroſs the wings. The fore part of the neck, the breaſt, and the belly to

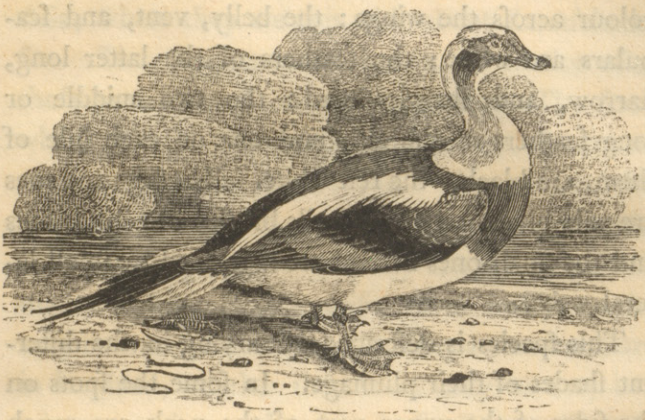
* In ſome, the belly and fore part of the neck are of a reddiſh buff, or cream colour.

the vent, are of a dull white, obſcurely ſpotted with brown. The tail is long and pointed, but the two middle feathers do not extend themſelves beyond the reſt, like thoſe of the male.

Theſe birds do not viſit the temperate and warm climates in great numbers, except in very ſevere winters, the great bulk of them dropping ſhort, and remaining during that ſeaſon in various parts of the Ruſſian dominions, Sweden, Norway, &c. and alſo in the ſame latitudes in both Aſia and America. They are ſeldom numerous in England, but flocks of them are ſometimes abundantly ſpread along the iſles and ſhores of Scotland and Ireland, and on the interior lakes of both thoſe countries, as well as thoſe of the continent as far ſouth as Italy, and in America as far ſouth as New York. They are eſteemed excellent eating.

The Pintail Duck is of a taller or more lengthened ſhape than any of the ſpecies, and, in the opinion of the Count de Buffon, ſeems to form the link between the Duck and the Garganey.





LONG-TAILED DUCK,

OR SWALLOW-TAILED SHELDRAKE.

(*Anas Glacialis*, Lin.—*Canard de Miclon*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies is conſiderably leſs than the laſt, and comes more nearly to the ſize of the Wigeon. The bill is ſhort, black, and croſſed by an orange red bar between the tip and the noſtrils, with both mandibles deeply pectinated on the edges. The front of the head, cheeks, and ſides of the neck, are pale reddiſh brown, with an oval-ſhaped black and chefnut patch, placed on the ſides behind the auriculars; the reſt of the head and neck is white: the breaſt, ſhoulders, back, and leſſer wing-coverts, are of a deep chocolate colour, more or leſs inclining to black or brown in different birds: the greater coverts and primary quills duſky; the ſecondaries

are reddiſh brown, and form an oblique bar of that colour acroſs the wings: the belly, vent, and ſcapulars are white; the feathers of the latter long, narrow, and ſharp-pointed: the two middle or long feathers of the tail, and one on each ſide of them, are black; the reſt white. The legs and toes are pale blue; webs and nails black: the inner toes and the ſmall ones behind are margined by ſmall lateral webs.

This ſpecies is deſcribed as varying in the different ſhades of their plumage. In ſome the ſpots on the ſides of the upper part of the neck are much larger and darker, and the two tail feathers are double the length of thoſe of others: their legs are alſo ſaid to be ſometimes of deeper or lighter ſhades of red.

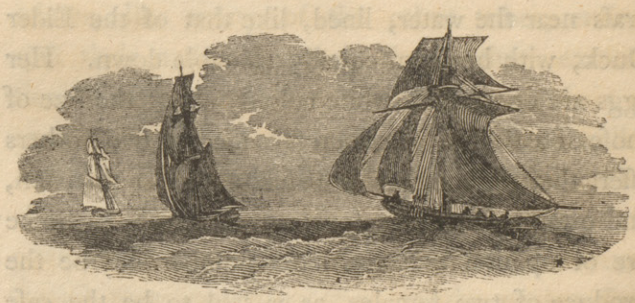
The Long-tailed Ducks, it is ſaid, do not in the winter, like many of the other tribes, entirely quit their native haunts in the northern extremities of the world, but conſiderable numbers remain there, enduring its gloomy rigours, as well as enjoying the perpetual day, under the influence of the unſetting ſummer's ſun, during the reſt of the thus divided year. Numerous flocks, however, ſpread themſelves ſouthward in the winter, from Greenland and Hudſon's Bay, as far as New York in America; and from Iceland and Spitzbergen, over Lapland, the Ruſſian dominions, Sweden, Norway, and the Northern parts of the Britiſh Iſles in

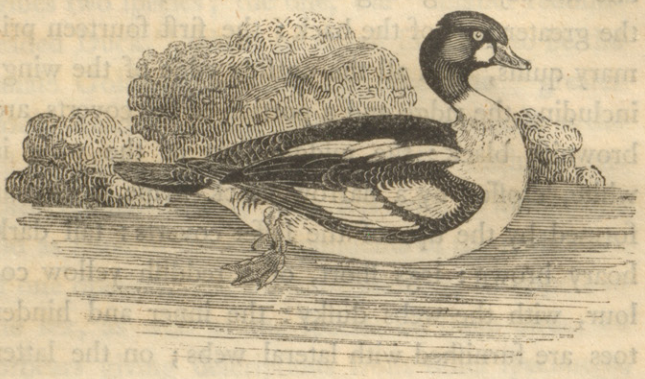
Europe. The ſame progreſs of them is obſerved in Aſia, where they are met with about Kamtſchatka, &c. They frequent the lakes in the interior of all thoſe parts as well as the ſea-ſhores. The flocks which viſit the Orkney Iſles appear in October, and continue there till April; and "about ſun-ſet they are ſeen in vaſt companies going to and returning from the bays, in which they frequently paſs the night, making ſuch a noiſe, as in froſty weather may be heard ſome miles." They are rather ſcarce in England, whither they come only in very hard winters, and even then but in ſmall ſtraggling parties. They fly ſwiftly, but ſeldom to a great diſtance, making a loud and ſingular cry. They are expert divers, and are ſuppoſed to live chiefly upon ſhell-fiſh.

The female, it is ſaid, makes her neſt among the graſs near the water, lined, like that of the Eider Duck, with her own equally valuable down. Her eggs are of a bluiſh white colour, about the ſize of thoſe of a Pullet. Latham ſays ſhe lays five; others aſſert that the number is "ſeldom fewer than ten, and often as many as fourteen or fifteen." Some are of opinion that the latter number may be the produce of two females, as is ſaid to be the caſe with the Eider Duck. When the young are hatched, the mother carries them to the water in her bill.

Latham deſcribes the *Anas hyemalis* of Linnæus as the female of this ſpecies: he ſays the bill is the

ſame: "ſides of the head white; hind head cinereous; the reſt of the head, the neck, breaſt, and back, duſky black: the lower part of the breaſt and ſcapulars cheſnut: belly white: upper tail coverts and wings, much as in the *male:* legs duſky reddiſh brown." "Some birds of this ſex have the brown feathers edged with ferruginous, others not." "I have likewiſe obſerved in ſome a white ſpot on each ſide of the lower part of the neck." He adds, that in the females which he had ſeen, the long tail-feathers were wanting.





GOLDEN-EYE.

(*Anas clangula*, Lin.—*Le Garrot*, Buff.)

THE weight of this ſpecies varies from twenty-ſix ounces to two pounds. The length is nineteen inches, and the breadth thirty-one. The bill is bluiſh black, ſhort, thick, and elevated at the baſe: the head large, ſlightly creſted, and black, or rather of a gloſſy bottle green, with violet reflections: a large white ſpot is placed on the ſpace on each ſide between the corners of the mouth and the eyes, the irides of which are of a golden yellow: the throat, and a ſmall portion of the upper part of the neck, are of a ſooty or velvet black; the lower, to the ſhoulders, the breaſt, belly, and vent, white; but ſome of the ſide feathers, and thoſe which cover the thighs, are tipped with black: the ſcapulars white and deep black: of the latter colour are

alſo the adjoining long tertial feathers, and thoſe on the greater part of the back: the firſt fourteen primary quills, with all the outſide edge of the wing, including the ridge and a portion of the coverts, are browniſh black: the middle part of the wing is white, croſſed by a narrow black ſtripe, which is formed by the tips of the leſſer coverts: tail dark hoary brown: legs ſhort, of a reddiſh yellow colour, with the webs duſky: the inner and hinder toes are furniſhed with lateral webs; on the latter theſe webs are large and flapped. Willoughby ſays "the windpipe hath a labyrinth at the divarication, and beſides, above ſwells out into a belly or puff-like cavity."

This is the deſcription of an individual adult male, in which, as to the identity of the ſex and ſpecies, no one can be miſtaken: but as younger males have been met with, bearing in every reſpect the ſame plumage as the old ones, except in having no white ſpots before the eyes, and other (ſuppoſed) young males have alſo been ſeen both with and without thoſe white ſpots, though with a female-looking garb, and their bills tipped with orange, like that of the Morillon; it is not only uncertain at what age the Golden-eye attains his full dreſs, but alſo, from the varied appearances, as well in theſe, as in thoſe ſuppoſed to be females, it is doubtful whether two diſtinct ſpecies are not confounded in one, and the young of one ſpecies de-

ſcribed as the old of another. Willoughby deſcribes two ſpecies; the one, the "ſmaller reddiſh-headed Duck," which he at laſt ſuppoſes to be the female Golden-eye,—and the other the "greater reddiſh-headed Duck," "perchance the ſame as the laſt deſcribed, or the male thereof." Latham confeſſes himſelf equally at a loſs with Willoughby; and as ſome of the correſpondents of the author are of one opinion, and ſome of another, in reſpect to the ſex, as well as the ſpecies of theſe birds, he forbears giving deſcriptions from other ſpecimens, although accurately taken, becauſe they would not remove the doubts already entertained, or elucidate the ſubject. It may not be improper, however, to quote Mr Pennant's account of the female Golden-eye in this place, and that of the Morillon, ſent to this work by George Strickland, Eſq. of Ripon, in the ſubſequent account of the latter bird. "The head of the female is of a deep brown, tinged with red: the neck grey: breaſt and belly white: coverts and ſcapulars duſky and aſh-coloured: middle quill-feathers white; the others, together with the tail, black: the legs duſky. * Theſe birds frequent the freſh water, as well as the ſea, being found on the Shropſhire meres during winter." †

* A bird was ſent to the author by the Rev. J. Davies, of Trinity College, Cambridge, agreeing with this deſcription, except in the legs being yellow.

† Pennant.

Theſe birds do not congregate in large flocks, nor are they numerous on the Britiſh ſhores, or on the lakes in the interior. They are late in taking their departure northward in the ſpring, the ſpecimens before mentioned being ſhot in April. In their flight they make the air whiſtle with the vigorous quick ſtrokes of their wings; they are excellent divers, and ſeldom ſet foot on the ſhore, upon which, it is ſaid, they walk with great apparent difficulty, and, except in the breeding ſeaſon, only repair to it for the purpoſe of taking their repoſe.

The attempts which were made by M. Baillon to domeſticate theſe birds, he informs the Count de Buffon, quite failed of ſucceſs.

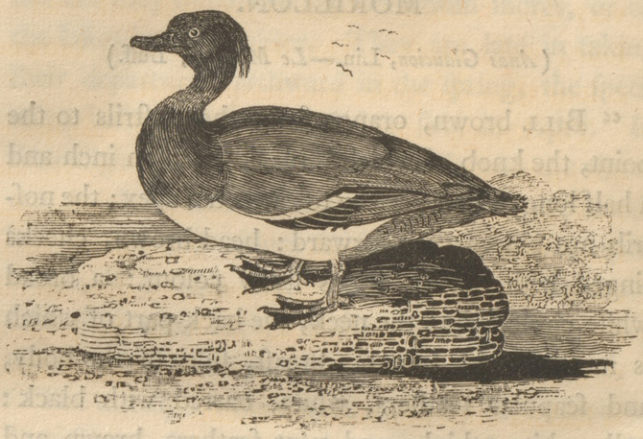


MORILLON.

(*Anas Glaucion*, Lin.—*Le Morillon*, Buff.)

"BILL brown, orange from the noſtrils to the point, the knob of which is black; it is an inch and a half long, rather narrow towards the apex; the noſtrils are placed very forward: head brown, cheeks tinged with black: irides ſtraw colour: a broad white circle round the neck, the back part of which is mottled with brown: breaſt, ſides of the body, and ſcapular feathers, white, barred with black: belly white: thighs and vent feathers, brown and white: inner coverts of the wings brown: back and coverts of the wings black, mottled with white: quill feathers and tertials black; ſecondaries white: tail rounded, and grey: legs and toes yellow brown, with a greeniſh tinge; webs and claws black. Length one foot four inches; breadth two feet four inches; weight one pound ſeven ounces."

"The above is a deſcription of the male bird: the female has not the white circle round the neck, or the yellow on the bill, and has leſs white on the wings." "I have ſhot this ſpecies on Coniſton lake, and on Eaſtwaite water, Lancaſhire, in December,—on Duddon-ſands, Cumberland, in April,—and on a pond near Ripon, Yorkſhire, in October. They are generally ſeen in ſmall flocks, diving for their food, near the ſhore."—*Mr Strickland.*



TUFTED DUCK.

(*Anas fuligula*, Lin.—*Le petit Morillon*, Briſſon.)

THIS is a plump, round, and ſhort-ſhaped ſpecies. The male is diſtinguiſhed by a pendent creſt, overhanging the nape of the neck, two inches in length. The weight is about two pounds, length eighteen inches. The bill is broad, of a dark lead colour; the nail black: irides deep orange: the head is black, gloſſed with purple: the neck, breaſt, and all the upper parts, are of a deep brown or black; the ſcapulars faintly powdered or ſprinkled with light ſpots, ſo minute as not to be obſerved at a ſhort diſtance. The wings are croſſed by a narrow white bar: the belly, ſides, and under coverts of the wings, are of a pure white: the vent white,

mixed with duſky. The tail conſiſts of fourteen very ſhort feathers: the legs are of a dark lead colour; webs black. The female is of a browner colour than the male, and has no creſt.

The habits, manners, and haunts of this ſpecies are much the ſame as thoſe of the Golden-eye, and they return northward about the ſame time. Latham ſays "the French allow theſe birds to be eaten on maigre days, and in lent; as they do alſo the Scoter: but though the fleſh of the latter is now and then tolerable, that of the Tufted Duck is ſeldom otherwiſe than excellent."





GARGANEY.

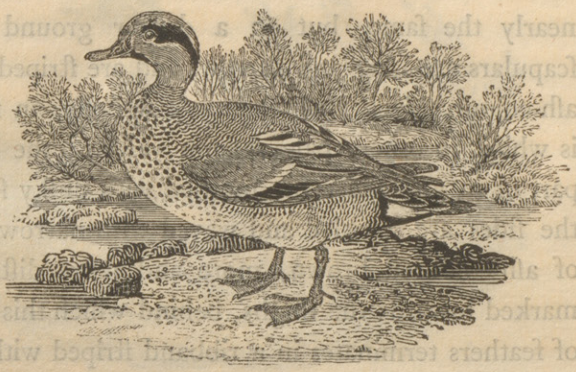
(*Anas querquedula*, Lin.—*La Sarcelle*, Buff.)

THIS ſpecies, which is only a little bigger than the Teal, is clothed with an elegant plumage, and has altogether a moſt agreeable and ſprightly look. It meaſures about ſeventeen inches in length, and twenty-eight in breadth. The bill is of a dark lead colour, nearly black: the irides light hazel. From the crown of the head, over the nape of the neck downwards, it is of a gloſſy brown: chin black: brow, cheeks, and the upper fore part of the neck, reddiſh cheſnut, with vinous reflections, and ſprinkled all over with numerous ſmall pointed white lines. A white ſtripe paſſes over each eye, and ſlanting backwards, falls down on each ſide of the neck, the lower part of which, with the breaſt, is light brown, pretty cloſely croſſed with ſemicircular

bars of black: the ſhoulders and back are marked nearly the ſame, but on a darker ground: the ſcapulars are long and narrow, and are ſtriped with aſh-colour, black and white. The belly, in ſome, is white, in others pale reddiſh yellow; the lower part of it, and the vent, mottled with duſky ſpots: the ſides are freckled and waved with narrow lines of aſh-coloured brown, more and more diſtinctly marked towards the thighs, behind which this ſeries of feathers terminates in a ribband ſtriped with aſh, black, white, and lead-coloured blue. The coverts of the wings are of an agreeable bluiſh aſh, margined with white: next to this the exterior webs of the middle quills are gloſſy green, tipped with white, and form the beauty-ſpot or ſpangle of the wings, to which the white tips make a border: the primary quills are aſh-brown, edged with white: tail duſky: legs lead colour.—The foregoing figure and deſcription were taken from a male bird in full and perfect plumage. This ſex is furniſhed with a labyrinth.

"The female has an obſcure white mark over each eye; the reſt of the plumage is of a browniſh aſh-colour, not unlike the female Teal; but the wing wants the green ſpot, which ſufficiently diſtinguiſhes theſe birds."

It has not yet been noticed whether any of this ſpecies ever remain to breed in England, where indeed they are rather a ſcarce bird.



TEAL,

OR COMMON TEAL.

(*Anas crecca*, Lin.—*La petite Sarcelle.*)

THIS beautiful little Duck ſeldom exceeds eleven ounces in weight, or meaſures more, ſtretched out, than fourteen inches and a half in length, and twenty-three and a half in breadth. The bill is a dark lead colour, tipped with black: irides pale hazel: a gloſſy bottle-green patch, edged on the upper ſide with pale brown, and beneath with cream-coloured white, covers each eye, and extends to the nape of the neck: the reſt of the head, and the upper part of the neck, are of a deep reddiſh cheſnut, darkeſt on the forehead, and freckled on the chin and about the eyes with cream-coloured ſpots: the hinder part of the neck, the ſhoulders, part of the ſcapulars, ſides under the wings, and lower belly, towards

the vent, are elegantly pencilled with black, aſh-brown, and white tranſverſe waved lines: the breaſt, greatly reſembling the beautifully ſpotted appearance of an India ſhell, is of a pale brown or reddiſh yellow, and each feather is tipped with a roundiſh heart-ſhaped black ſpot: the belly is a cream-coloured white: back and rump brown, each feather edged with a paler colour: vent black: the primary quills, leſſer and greater coverts, are brown; the laſt deeply tipped with white, which forms a bar acroſs the wings: the firſt ſix of the ſecondary quills are of a fine velvet black; thoſe next to them, towards the ſcapulars, are of a moſt reſplendent gloſſy green, and both are tipped with white, forming the divided black and green bar, or beauty-ſpot of the wings. The tail conſiſts of fourteen feathers, of a hoary brown colour, with pale edges: the legs and feet are of a dirty lead colour. The female, which is leſs than the male, is prettily freckled about the head and neck with brown and white. She has not the green patch behind the eyes, but a brown ſtreak there which extends itſelf to the nape of the neck: the crown of the head is dark brown: the upper mandible yellow on the edges, olive green on the ſides, and olive brown on the ridge; nail black, and the under bill yellow: breaſt, belly, and vent gloſſy yellowiſh white, ſpotted on the latter parts with brown: the upper plumage is dark brown, each feather bordered with ruſty brown,

and edged with grey: the wings and legs nearly the ſame as thoſe of the male.

The Teal is common in England in the winter months, but it is uncertain whether or not they remain throughout the year to breed,* as is the caſe in France. The female makes a large neſt, compoſed of ſoft dried graſſes, (and, it is ſaid, the pith of ruſhes) lined with feathers, and cunningly concealed in a hole among the roots of reeds and bull-ruſhes near the edge of the water, and ſome aſſert that it reſts on the ſurface of the water ſo as to riſe and fall with it. The eggs are of the ſize of thoſe of a Pigeon, ſix or ſeven in number, and of a dull white colour, marked with ſmall browniſh ſpots; but it appears that they ſometimes lay ten or twelve eggs, for Buffon remarks that that number of young are ſeen in cluſters on the pools, feeding on creſſes, wild chervil, &c. and no doubt, as they grow up, they feed, like other Ducks, on the various ſeeds, graſſes, and water-plants, as well as upon the ſmaller animated beings with which all ſtagnant waters are ſo abundantly ſtored. The Teal is highly eſteemed for the excellent flavour of its fleſh: it is known to breed, and remain throughout the year in various temperate climates of the world, and is met with as far northward as Iceland in the ſummer.

* Dr Heyſham ſays "the Teal is now known to breed in the moſſes about Carliſle."

OF THE PELICAN.

THE bill of this genus is long and ſtrait; the end either hooked or ſloping; the noſtrils placed in a furrow that runs along the ſides of the bill, and in moſt of the ſpecies not diſtinguiſhable. The face generally deſtitute of feathers, being covered only with a bare ſkin: gullet naked, and capable of great diſtention: body long, heavy, and flat: legs placed far backward: toes four in number, and all webbed together.

Latham, following the example of Linnæus, includes the Pelican, Man of War bird, Corvorant, Shag, Gannet, and Booby, in this genus, of which he enumerates thirty diſtinct ſpecies and two varieties; four only of this number, and one variety, are Britiſh Birds. In confining the preſent account to theſe, it is proper to remark that they are not the inhabitants of this country only, but are widely diſperſed over the globe, being met with in almoſt every climate which navigators have viſited, whether temperate, hot, or cold. The Gannet only is migratory: large flocks of this ſpecies arrive in the ſpring of the year, and diſperſe themſelves in colonies over the rocky promontories of Scotland and its iſles, in various parts of which they breed and rear their young, and as ſoon as that office is performed, they retire in the autumn to their un-

known abodes. Their return each ſeaſon points out alſo that of the ſhoals of the herring, which they hover over, purſue, and chiefly feed upon. Theſe ſhoals, at that ſeaſon of increaſing warmth, are poured forth on their ſouthern rout, gliding forward in wide glittering columns of myriads upon myriads, from the unknown but prolific regions of the northern pole. Theſe prodigious ſhoals, with their diviſions and ſubdiviſions, in their branched courſe around the Britiſh iſles, are attended by the Gannet. On our ſouthern coaſts the Pilchard affords theſe birds another ſupply of food, in purſuit of which they are enticed as far ſouthward as the Mediterranean ſea.

The Corvorant and the Shag remain with us throughout the year, but particularly on our more northern ſhores, upon whoſe rocky ſhelving precipices they ſtation themſelves, and perform the offices of incubation, while ſtragglers occaſionally taking a wider range, with outſtretched neck and vigorous wing ſweep along the coaſt, and entering the mouths of the rivers, follow their courſe in queſt of food, to the lakes inland.





CORVORANT.

COLE GOOSE, OR GREAT BLACK CORMORANT,

(*Pelicanus Carbo*, Lin.—*Le Cormoran*, Buff.)

THE weight of this ſpecies varies from four to ſeven pounds, and the ſize from thirty-two inches to three feet four or five in length, and from four feet to four feet ſix inches in breadth. The bill, to the corners of the mouth, meaſures four inches, and

on its ridge two and three-quarters: it is of a dark horn colour, and the tip or nail of the upper bill is much hooked and ſharp: from the root of this it is furrowed on each ſide nearly to the baſe, without any viſible appearance of noſtrils: the lower bill is compreſſed, and covered about the gape of the mouth with a naked yellowiſh ſkin, extended under the chin and throat, where it hangs looſe, and forms a kind of pouch, which, together with the ſpringing blades on each ſide, forming its rim, is capable of diſtention to a great width, and enables the bird to ſwallow prey apparently too large to be admitted into its throat: the ſkin about the eyes is alſo naked, and of the ſame colour as the pouch: the eyes, which have a remarkable wild ſtare, and are placed near the bill, look like two little greeniſh glaſs globes. The crown of the head, and the neck, are black: on the hinder part of the former the feathers appear elongated, and form a ſort of looſe ſhort creſt. In ſome ſpecimens the throat is white, with a kind of ſtripe paſſing from it upwards behind each eye; in others the cheeks and throat are mixed with brown and white; and again, in others the head and neck are ſtreaked with ſcratches of the latter colour: the middle of the belly is white, with a patch of the ſame colour over each thigh: all the under parts, however, together with the back and rump, are commonly of a gloſſy blue black, with green reflections: the ſhoulders, ſcapu-

lars, and wing-coverts, are of a bronze brown, tinged and gloſſed with green, and each feather is bordered with ſhining bluiſh black: the ſecondary quills are nearly of the ſame colour: the coverts and the primaries are duſky. The tail conſiſts of fourteen ſtiff *haſky* dark feathers, which look as if they were diſcoloured by being dipped in mud or dirty kennel water: the legs are thick, ſtrong, black, and coarſe, about two inches and a half long, and the outer toe is more than four in length.

The Corvorant, as before obſerved, is found in every climate. In Greenland, where it is ſaid they remain throughout the year, the jugular pouch is made uſe of by the natives as a bladder to float their fiſhing darts, after they are thrown: their ſkins, which are tough, are uſed for garments, and their fleſh for food; "but the eggs are too fetid to be eaten even by the Greenlanders." *

Theſe birds uſually aſſemble in flocks on the ſummits and inacceſſible parts of the rocks which overhang, or are ſurrounded by the ſea, upon which the female makes her neſt of the withered ſea-tang, weeds, ſticks, and graſſes, which are caſt on ſhore by the waves: ſhe lays four or more greeniſh white eggs of the ſize of thoſe of a Gooſe, but of a longer ſhape. There are writers who aſſert that, in ſome parts of the world they build their neſts on trees,

* Arctic Zoology. This muſt ſurely mean the rotten eggs.

like the Rook and the Heron; other authors, ſtricken with the ſingular conformation of the feet* and ſerrated claw, have aſcribed properties to them which they do not poſſeſs, and believe that they hold their prey in one foot, while with the other they puſh forward to the ſhore, or carry it thither, in the ſame manner, on the wing: but this ſeems mere conjecture, for the feet of this tribe are not fitted for any ſuch purpoſe; they are, like thoſe of all the expert divers, placed far behind, and while by the poſition of theſe, and the powerful ſtrokes from their broad webs, the bird is enabled to purſue and overtake its ſlippery prey, the hooked ſharp-edged beak is the only fit inſtrument both to catch and to ſecure it; and there is no need to uſe the aukward expedient of removing it afterwards to the foot.

At ſea, or on the inland lakes, they make terrible havoc. From the greateſt height they drop down upon the object of purſuit, dive after it with the rapidity of a dart, and with an almoſt unerring certainty, ſeize the victim; then emerging, with the fiſh acroſs the bill, with a kind of twirl, throw it up into the air, and, dexterouſly catching it head foremoſt, ſwallow it whole.

While at reſt on the ſhore, commonly on the ledge of a projecting rock, theſe birds ſit more or

* See the cut, page 389.

leſs in an erect poſture, and are propped up by the ſtiff feathers of the tail; and in places where they have not experienced the fatal effects of the gun, they have been known, however wary at other times, to ſit and receive repeated ſhots, without offering to remove out of the danger. * At other times and places, while they ſit in a dozing and ſtupified ſtate, from the effects of one of their cuſtomary ſurfeits, they may eaſily be taken, by throwing nets over them, or by putting a nooſe around their necks, which they avoid no further than by ſlipping the head from ſide to ſide as long as they can.

Notwithſtanding the natural wildneſs of their diſpoſition, it ſeems, according to ſome accounts, that certain ſpecies of theſe birds have formerly been tamed and rendered ſubſervient to the purpoſes of man, both in this and in other countries. Among the Chineſe, it is ſaid they have frequently been

* Dr Heyſham relates that, about the year 1759, one of theſe birds "perched upon the caſtle at Carliſle, and ſoon afterwards removed to the cathedral, where it was ſhot at upwards of twenty times without effect; at length a perſon got upon the cathedral, fired at, and killed it." "In another inſtance, a flock of fifteen or twenty perched, at the duſk of evening, in a tree on the banks of the river Eſk, near Netherby, the ſeat of Sir James Graham. A perſon who ſaw them ſettle, fired at random at them in the dark ſix or ſeven times, without either killing any or frightening them away: ſurpriſed at this, he came again, at day light, and killed one, whereupon the reſt took flight."

trained to fiſh, and that ſome fiſhermen keep many of them for that purpoſe, by which they gain a livelihood. "A ring placed round the neck hinders the bird from ſwallowing; its natural appetite joins with the will of its maſter, and it inſtantly dives at the word of command; when unable to gorge down the fiſh it has taken, it returns to the keeper, who ſecures it to himſelf. Sometimes, if the fiſh be too big for one to manage, two will act in concert, one taking it by the head and the other by the tail." * In England, according to Willoughby, † they were hood-winked in the manner of the

* Latham.

† "When they come to the rivers, they take off their hoods, and having tied a leather thong round the lower part of their necks, that they may not ſwallow down the fiſh they catch, they throw them into the river. They preſently dive under water, and there for a time, with wonderful ſwiftneſs, they purſue the fiſh, and when they have caught them, they ariſe preſently to the top of the water, and preſſing the fiſh lightly with their bills, they ſwallow them, till each bird hath in this manner ſwallowed five or ſix fiſhes; then their keepers call them to the fiſt, to which they readily fly, and, little by little, one after another, vomit up all their fiſh, a little bruiſed with the nip they gave them with their bills. When they have done fiſhing, ſetting the birds on ſome high place, they looſe the ſtring from their necks, leaving the paſſage to the ſtomach free and open, and for their reward they throw them part of the prey they have caught, to each, perchance, one or two fiſhes, which they by the way, as they are falling in the air, will catch moſt dexterouſly in their mouths."—*Willoughby.*

Falcons till they were let off to fiſh, and a leather thong was tied round the lower part of their necks, to prevent them ſwallowing the fiſh. Whitlock tells us "that he had a caſt of them *manned* like Hawks, which would come to hand." He took much pleaſure in them, and relates, that the beſt he had was one preſented to him by Mr Wood, Maſter of the Corvorants to Charles I.

This tribe ſeems poſſeſſed of energies not of an ordinary kind; they are of a ſtern ſullen character, with a remarkably keen penetrating eye and a vigorous body, and their whole deportment carries along with it the appearance of the wary circumſpect plunderer, the unrelenting tyrant, and the greedy inſatiate glutton, rendered lazy only when the appetite is palled, and then occaſionally puffing forth the fetid fumes of a gorged ſtomach, vented in the diſagreeable croakings of its hoarſe hollow voice. Such is their portrait, ſuch the character generally given of them by ornithologiſts, and Milton ſeems to have put the finiſhing hand to it, by making Satan perſonate the Corvorant, while he ſurveys, undelighted, the beauties of Paradiſe.* It ought, however, to be obſerved, that this bird, like other animals, led only by the cravings of appetite, and directed by inſtinct, fills the place and purſues the courſe aſſigned to it by nature.

* Paradiſe Loſt, Book iv. l. 194—198.



CRESTED CORVORANT.

THE creſt is black, and longer than that of the Great Black Corvorant: the crown of the head, and nearly the whole neck, are ſtreaked downwards with ſcratches of white and duſky: a white gorget hangs from the cheeks, and covers the chin; this is bounded behind by a broadiſh black fillet, which partly covers the auriculars, and is extended to the corner of each eye: a patch of white feathers covers

the hinder part of each thigh: the reſt of its plumage is the ſame as that of the preceding ſpecies; its character is alſo ſimilar.

It is not yet clearly aſcertained whether this is a variety of the laſt, or a diſtinct ſpecies, or whether it is the Corvorant in the garb of its higheſt adult ſtate. Latham inclines to the latter opinion, and ſuppoſes the ſtreaked head and different markings of its plumage to be acquired only by age. Buffon, in his Planches Enluminées, has given its figure as the Corvorant; and Pennant, differing from them, makes it a ſpecies of the Shag. Mr Tunſtall was in doubt on this ſubject, but diſcovered, by diſſection, that the whiteneſs under the chin and on the thighs is not confined to the males, for one with theſe marks, which was ſent to him out of Holderneſs, in Yorkſhire, in 1775, was full of eggs. The above figure was taken from the ſpecimen in his muſeum.





SHAG,

SKART, SCARFE, OR GREEN CORMORANT.

(*Pelicanus graculus*, Lin.—*Le petit Cormoran ou le Nigaud*, Buff.)

THE form, the aſpect altogether, the outward conformation of all the parts, the character, manners and habits, and the places of abode, of this ſpecies, are nearly like thoſe of the Corvorant; but they do not aſſociate, and theſe make their neſts on the rugged ſhelvy ſides and crevices of the rocky precipices or projecting cliffs which overhang the ſea, while the others make theirs on the ſummits above them; and theſe are at once diſtinguiſhed from the others by the greenneſs of the upper, and

brownneſs of the under plumage, and alſo in being of a much leſs ſize; the largeſt Shags weighing only about four pounds, and meaſuring nearly two feet ſix inches in length, and three feet eight in breadth. The bill is of a more ſlender make, but nearly as long as that of the Corvorant; the head, in the male, is creſted in the ſame manner; the middle claw is ſerrated; and its tail, conſiſting of twelve ſtiff feathers ſtained with green, is alſo of the ſame form and hoary or dirty appearance as that of the Corvorant: the crown of the head, hinder part of the neck, lower back, and rump, are of a plain black, or very dark green, ſhining like ſattin: the upper back, or ſhoulders, together with the ſcapulars and wings, are nearly of the ſame colour, but with a tinge of bronze brown, and each feather is diſtinctly edged with purple gloſſed black: the under parts are clouded with duſky dirty white and brown.

The Shag is as greedy and voracious as the Corvorant, and, like that bird, after having over-gorged its ſtomach, is often found on ſhore in a ſleepy or ſtupified ſtate; but when this torpor is over, and they appear again upon the water, they are then extremely alert, and are not eaſily ſhot, for both kinds dive the inſtant they ſee the flaſh of the gun, and take care afterwards to keep out of its reach. In ſwimming they carry their head very erect, while the body ſeems nearly ſubmerged, and from their

feathers not being quite impervious to the water, they do not remain very long upon it at a time, but are frequently ſeen flying about, or ſitting on the ſhore, flapping the moiſture from their wings, or keeping them for ſome time expanded to dry in the ſun and the wind. Notwithſtanding the ſtrong and offenſive ſmell emitted from the Shags and the Corvorants, ſome inſtances are not wanting of their having been eaten by people in this country, but before they are cooked, they muſt undergo a certain ſweetening proceſs, part of which conſiſts in their being firſt ſkinned and drawn, and then wrapped up in a clean cloth, and buried for ſome time in the earth; after which they are made ready for eating in various ways, though generally potted like Moorgame.





GANNET.

GAN, SOLAND OR SOLAN GOOSE.

(*Pelicanus baſſanus*, Lin.—*Le Fou de Baſſan*, Buff.)

THE Gannet is generally about ſeven pounds in weight, three feet in length, and ſix in breadth. The bill is of a pale or lead-coloured blue, ſix inches long, a little jagged on the edges, ſtrong and ſtraight to the tip, which is inclined a little downwards: the upper bill is furniſhed with a diſtinct rib or ridge, running along from the tip nearly to its baſe, on each ſide of which it is furrowed, without any viſible appearance of noſtrils: the tongue is ſmall, and placed far within the mouth, all the

inſide of which is black: a darkiſh line paſſes from the brow over the eyes, which are ſurrounded with a naked blue ſkin, and, like thoſe of the Owl, are ſet in the head ſo as to look nearly ſtraight forward, and the extreme paleneſs of the irides gives them a keen wild ſtare. The gape of the mouth is very wide, and ſeems more lengthened by a ſlip of naked black ſkin, which is extended on each ſide from the corners beyond the cheeks: theſe features of its countenance, altogether, give it the appearance of wearing ſpectacles. A looſe black bare dilatable ſkin, capable of great diſtention, hung from the blades of the under bill, and extended over the throat, ſerves it as a pouch to carry proviſions to its mate, or its young. The body is flat and well cloathed with feathers; the neck long: the crown of the head, nape, and, in ſome ſpecimens, the hinder part of the neck, are of a buff colour; greater quills and baſtard wings black, and the reſt of the plumage white. The tail is wedge-ſhaped, and conſiſts of twelve tapering ſharp-pointed feathers, the middle ones the longeſt. The legs and feet are nearly of the ſame colour and conformation as thoſe of the Corvorant, but they are curiouſly marked by a pea-green ſtripe, which runs down each ſhin, and branches off along every one of the toes. The male and female are nearly alike, but the young birds, during the firſt year, appear as if they were of a diſtinct ſpecies, for their plumage is then of a duſky

colour, ſpeckled all over with triangular white ſpots.

THE female makes her neſt in the caverns and fiſſures, or on the ledges of the lowering precipice, as well as on the plain ſurface of the ground; it is formed of a great quantity of withered graſſes and ſea-weeds of various kinds, gathered with much labour from the barren ſoil, * or picked up floating about upon the water. She lays three eggs, of a white colour, and ſomewhat leſs than thoſe of a Gooſe, although ornithologiſts aſſert that ſhe will lay only one egg, if left to herſelf undiſturbed, and that when this egg is taken away ſhe then lays a

* "They continue to pluck graſs for their neſts from their coming in March, till the young fowl is ready to fly, in Auguſt or September, according as the inhabitants take or leave the firſt or ſecond eggs. It is remarkable of them that they never pluck graſs but on windy days."—*Martin.* [It would appear from this that they are not ſo ſucceſsful in taking their prey in boiſterous weather as when it is calm.]

Martin gives an account of the Solan Geeſe ſtealing the materials of which they form their neſts, from each other, and deſcribes a battle between two of them in conſequence of a theft of this kind: the one which had robbed the neſt flew towards the ſea with its load, and returned again as if it had gathered the ſtuff from a different quarter; but the owner, though at a diſtance from his neſt, had obſerved the robbery, and waited the return of the thief, which he attacked with the utmoſt fury. "This bloody battle was fought above our heads, and proved fatal to the thief, who fell dead ſo near our boat, that our men took him up, and preſently dreſſed and eat him."

ſecond, and in like manner a third, which ſhe is generally permitted to hatch, and rear the young one. * "The male and female hatch and fiſh by turns; the fiſher returns to the neſt with five or ſix herrings in its gorget, all entire and undigeſted, which the hatcher pulls out from the throat of its provider, and ſwallows them, making at the ſame time a loud noiſe."

Theſe birds are common on the coaſts of Norway and Iceland, and are ſaid to be met with in great numbers about New Holland and New Zealand; they breed alſo on the coaſts of Newfoundland, and migrate ſouthward along the American ſhores as far as South Carolina: they are noticed, indeed, by navigators, as being met with, diſperſed over both hemiſpheres, and are probably one great family ſpread over the whole globe; but their greateſt known rendezvous is the Hebrides and other ſolitary rocky iſles of North Britain, where their neſts, in the months of May and June,

* "The Solan Geeſe have always ſome of their number that keep watch in the night time, and if the centinel is ſurpriſed, (as it often happens) all that flock are taken, one after another; but if the centinel be awake at the approach of the creeping fowlers, and hear a noiſe, he cries ſoftly *Grog, Grog*, at which the flock do not move; but if this centinel ſee or hear the fowler approaching, he cries ſoftly *Bir, Bir*, which would ſeem to import danger, ſince immediately after, all the tribe take wing, leaving the diſappointed fowlers without any proſpect of ſucceſs for that night."

are deſcribed as ſo cloſely placed together, that it is difficult to walk without treading upon ſome of them; and it is ſaid that the ſwarms of the old birds are ſo prodigious, that when they riſe into the air, they ſtun the ear with their noiſe, and overſhadow the ground like the clouds. * At the ſmall iſle of Borea, Martin ſays "the heavens were darkened by thoſe flying above our heads; their excrements were in ſuch quantity, that they gave a tincture to the ſea, and at the ſame time ſullied our boat and cloaths." Beſides this ſmall iſle of Borea, and St Kilda, noticed by Martin, Pennant and other writers mention the iſle of Ailſa in the Frith of Clyde; the Stack of Souliskerry, near the Orkneys; the Skellig Iſles, off the coaſt of Kerry, Ireland; and the Baſs Iſle, in the Frith of Forth. This laſt-mentioned iſle is farmed out at a conſiderable rent for the eggs of the various kinds of water-fowl with which it ſwarms; and the produce of the Solan Geeſe forms a large portion of this rent; for great numbers of their young ones are taken

* Martin, in his Hiſtory of and Voyage to St Kilda, publiſhed in 1698, ſays "the inhabitants of St Kilda take their meaſures from the flight of theſe fowls, when the heavens are not clear, as from a ſure compaſs, experience ſhewing that every tribe of fowls bend their courſe to their reſpective quarters, though out of ſight of the iſle; this appeared clearly in our gradual advances; and their motion being compared, did exactly quadrate with our compaſs."

every ſeaſon, and ſold in Edinburgh for about twenty-pence each, where they are eſteemed a favourite diſh, being generally roaſted, and eaten before dinner. On the other bleak and bare iſles, the inhabitants, during a great part of the year, depend for their ſupport upon theſe birds and their eggs, which are taken in amazing quantities, and are the principal articles of their food.* From the neſts placed upon the ground the eggs are eaſily picked up one after another, in great numbers, as faſt as they are laid; but in robbing the neſts built in the precipices, chiefly for the ſake of the birds, the buſineſs wears a very different aſpect: there, before the dearly earned booty can be ſecured, the adventurous fowler, trained to it from his youth, and familiarized to the danger, muſt firſt approach the brow of the fearful precipice, to view and to trace his progreſs on the broken pendent rocks beneath him: over theſe rocks, which (perhaps a hundred fathoms lower) are daſhed by the foaming ſurge, he is from a prodigious height about to be ſuſpended. After addreſſing himſelf in prayer to the

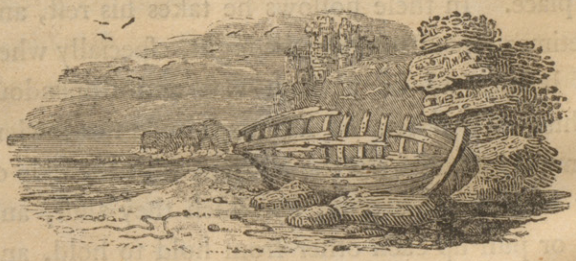
* "They preſerve the eggs in ſtone huts or pyramids, which they build for that purpoſe, as well as for a ſhelter to the fowlers: in theſe pyramids they cover up the eggs with turf aſhes, which defend them from the air, dryneſs being their only preſervative, and moiſture their corruption: by this method, it is ſaid, they keep them freſh and fit for uſe, for ſix, ſeven, or even for eight months."—*Martin.*

Supreme Diſpoſer of events, with a mind prepared for the arduous taſk, he is let down by a rope, either held faſt by his comrades, or fixed into the ground on the ſummit, with his ſignal cord, his pole-net, his pole-hook, &c. and thus equipped, he is enabled, in his progreſs, either to ſtop, to aſcend or deſcend, as he ſees occaſion. Sometimes by ſwinging himſelf from one ledge to another, with the help of his hook, he mounts upwards, and clambers from place to place; and, at other opportunities, by ſpringing backwards, he can dart himſelf into the hollow caverns of the projecting rock, which he commonly finds well ſtored with the objects of his purſuit, whence the plunder, chiefly conſiſting of the full-grown young birds, is drawn up to the top, or toſſed down to the boat at the bottom, according to the ſituation of concurring circumſtances of time and place. In theſe hollows he takes his reſt, and ſometimes remains during the night, eſpecially when they happen to be at ſuch vaſt and ſtupendous heights. To others of leſs magnitude the fowlers commonly climb from the bottom, with the help of their hooked poles only, by which they aſſiſt, and puſh or pull up each other from hold to hold, and in this manner traverſe the whole front of the frightful ſcar. To a feeling mind the very ſight of this hazardous employment, in whatever way it is purſued, is painful; for, indeed, it often happens that theſe adventurous poor men, in this life-taking

mode of obtaining their living, ſlip their hold, are precipitated from one projection to another, with increaſing velocity, and fall mangled upon the rocks, or are for ever buried in the abyſs beneath.

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